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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-070
Wednesday
14 April 1993

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-070 *14 April 1993*

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G-7 Opens Tokyo Russian Aid Ministerial Talks

Miyazawa Addresses Ministers

OW1404060493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0552 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa at the G-7 meeting in Tokyo on 14 April]

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this G-7 joint ministerial meeting on assistance to Russia. As the chair of the coming G-7 summit in July, Japan convened this meeting in the belief that a great deal is at stake not just for the government and people of Russia, but also for the internationl community as a whole.

In the course of my political career spanning some 40 years, I have witnessed the world rise from the ashes of World War II, then languish under the strains of the Cold War confrontation, and finally begin to move toward the attainment of the universal values of freedom and democracy. Russia today embodies this great historic change now taking place. The success of Russia's reform efforts—political reform toward pluralistic democracy, economic reform toward market economy, and foreign policy reform to become a constructive partner in the international community—is crucial in achieving peace and prosperity of the world.

Russia is now at a critical juncture, with the reform efforts under the leadership of President Yeltsin facing tremendous challenges both politically and economically. It is incumbent upon the international community to send a clear message that it expects Russia's reforms to be pursued irreversibly. The G-7 countries, who share major responsibilities for securing peace and prosperity of the world, must take the lead in rallying the international community in support of the reforms in Russia, as well as in other reforming countries.

In the final analysis, it is the Russians themselves who can make their own reforms work. The task of the international community is to help ease this sometimes painful transition for the Russian people, by providing the necessary "help for self-help."

With this in mind, I would wish to outline the three principal considerations which should guide our endeavors.

Firstly, our assistance should meet the true needs of the Russian people. It is the commitment and will of the Russian people themselves that really count for the success of their reform efforts. Therefore, they are the ones who should be the target of our assistance.

Secondly, our assistance should encourage the Russian people to build effective and efficient institutions which will sustain the process of transition toward market economy. Competitive markets required for fostering small businesses, banking systems for providing capital to entreprenears, education and training schemes for nourishing management ability, are some of the examples of those institutions. Our assistance should aim at providing the Russian people with the instruments to carry on their reforms toward market economy and democracy.

Last but not the least, our assistance should be closely coordinated through constant consultations among the major donors, international organizations as well as close contact with Russia so that our combined efforts can produce the maximum results. The G-7 countries should play a leading role in this respect, and today's meeting is expected to mark an important step forward in this process. Japan has been actively playing its part in such coordination: It was in this very room that I opened last October a conference to coordinate the international assistance to Russia and other new independent states.

Here, let me touch upon Japan's cooperation to Russia. Bilateral assistance which Japan has announced hitherto shall be steadily implemented. I should like to take this opportunity to announce Japan's new assistance package to Russia which totals 1.82 billion dollars, comprising 320 million dollars in grant and 1.5 billion dollars in loan.

Japan's grant assistance of 37.44 billion yen, which is approximately 320 million dollars in dollar terms, will be as follows:

Firstly, grant for emergency assistance is 100 million dollars. This includes provision of foodstuffs and medicaments. The proceeds of the sale thereof will further benefit the Russian people through monetization.

Secondly, grant for human resource development is 90 million dollars. This comprises a wide range of technical assistance and exchange programs so as to pave the way toward a market economy.

Thirdly, grant for fostering small and medium sized enterprises is 30 million dollars. Assistance to the far eastern international center for small and medium sized enterprises is a case in point.

Fourthly, grant for dismantling nuclear weapons is 100 million dollars. This applies to Russia as well as other new independent states.

Japan's loan assistance comprises the following:

Firstly, Japan is ready to underwrite trade insurance totaling 1.1 billion dollars, with appropriate cooperation on the part of Russia. This will be focused on the reconstruction of the energy industry, a main source of foreign exchange receipt for Russia.

Secondly, Japan is ready to extend Ex-Im Bank loan of 400 million dollars in total to appropriate projects focusing on the fields of energy and of small and medium sized enterprises.

Fostering small and medium sized enterprises is essential for Russia's transition toward a market economy and will be an important topic for this meeting. Japan will actively take part in the studies for establishing international schemes for the support of these enterprises.

Let me conclude by expressing my ardent hope that this meeting will carry us forward in translating our deliberations into actions, thus equipping us with the actual multilateral framework and measures of assistance to Russia toward the Tokyo summit in July. I hereby reconfirm Japan's determination to fulfill its role of the G- 7 summit presidency, building upon the fruits of this meeting.

Thank you very much.

Pre-Referendum Russian Aid Targetted

OW1404125793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Foreign and finance ministers of the group of seven (G-7) nations agreed in talks Wednesday [14 April] that support for Russia ahead of a crucial national referendum is "an investment in the future," Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

The officials said the G-7 ministers and European Community representatives also deemed it unnecessary to hold the July 7-9 summit in Tokyo of G-7 leaders earlier than scheduled as long as Yeltsin emerged victorious in the referendum.

The ministers shared concern about the prospect of Yeltsin losing authority in the wake of the poll, which centers on whether power should rest more with the reformist presidentor the conservative legislature.

Russia's Congress of People's Deputies is dominated by former communists elected before the Soviet Union's demise in 1991.

"If the president were replaced, his successors would not likely be as earnest reformers as Yeltsin and would not likely continue his policy of harmonizing Russia's diplomacy with that of western countries," one official said in summarizing the ministers' views. [passage omitted]

European ministers placed importance on the need to provide assistance to ensure the safety of nuclear plants in the former Soviet Union, they said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto was quoted as saying that in addition to aid in dismantling nuclear weapons in the former Soviet republics, money should be given to help Russia properly dispose of nuclear waste.

He criticized the Russian practice of dumping nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan.

UK Official: Yeltsin 'Best Prospect'

OW1404124993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1235 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations are striving to prop up Boris Yeltsin because the besieged Russian president is his country's "best prospect," a senior British official said Wednesday [14 April].

"He is the best prospect. There is no alternative," the official told reporters. Britain will provide Russia with 500 million dollars in export credits and double its technical assistance to about 180 million dollars, he said.

G-7 foreign and finance ministers assembled in Tokyo on Wednesday for a two-day meeting to discuss aid to the economically strapped Russia before Yeltsin faces a referendum on April 25 to decide his political future. The G-7 groups Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

London's aid to Russia is chiefly intended to assist the country's small businesses and train young Russian managers in the financial sector in Britain, another British official said. Asked about the total amount of G-7 aid to Russia, the official said only that it will be decided Thursday.

"We've always stressed, and (Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman) Lamont has done so again today, that the transformation of the Russian economy depends on the Russians following the right policies," he said. "Our package is designed to support that," he said, adding that unlike International Monetary Fund packages, there are no conditions attached.

Canada's Mazanowski: Aid 'Critical'

OW1404122093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1203 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The Group of Seven (G-7) countries agree that giving aid to Russia is critical to the success of President Boris Yeltsin's reform initiatives, Canadian Finance Minister Don Mazankowski said Wednesday [14 April]. He said aid must be delivered soon and "reach out to real people." Yeltsin faces severe opposition to his programs from hardliners in Moscow. Speaking to reporters after the first plenary session of the emergency G-7 meeting on aid to Russia that began Wednesday in Tokyo, Mazankowski said there is a "clear consensus" among the participants that Russia is at a "critical juncture and it is critical to support Russian initiatives."

The gathering brought foreign and finance ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States and the European Community. Aid, however, must be "tangible" and "reach the people" if it is to have any effect, Mazankowski added.

Canadian officials, at a briefing later, said Canada stressed that "totaling" aid is not the real need at the meeting. Rather, they said, the G-7 countries must target the aid to ensure it has an impact.

Assistance pledged to date is close to between 35 to 40 billion dollars. But the officials said the amount is so diverse—grants, credits and ruble stabilization—that it will not necessarily impact on ordinary Russians.

Mazankowski, in his remarks, stressed that assistance must be delivered soon, and it must "reach out to the real people, impact on the Russian community (outside Moscow and the larger centers)." He said the aid also must support Yeltsin because "he stands for reform."

"His opponents are not in favor of the reform process and the G-7 community wants to see that reform process. (Yeltsin) is spearheading the reform process in Russia and therefore supporting Yeltsin is supporting the reform process."

Ministers Favor Business Fund

OW1404124693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1233 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Italy, Japan and Germany are in favor of creating a fund for promoting small- and medium-sized industries in Russia rather than a U.S. proposal for a new privatization fund for large state industries, an Italian spokesman said Wednesday [14 April].

Such a fund for small- and medium-sized industries is important to "promote employment and managerial skills and get Russia to become accustomed with the functions of a market-economy," said Antonio Badini, the Italian sherpa to the Group of Seven (G-7) meeting on Russian aid.

The size of the fund is estimated at 500 million dollars, with the G-7 nations and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development making contributions to it, Badini said. He described the U.S. proposal for a 4 billion dollar privatization fund as "bold, but quite complex."

Many countries have said they need more time to study the U.S. proposal although they are not opposed to it, Badini said.

"The idea to create a small- and medium-sized network has already been carefully examined and we are ready to launch it," he said.

He said the idea is a "visible and concrete" signal to Russia to accelerate its privatization program, and added that "these proposals deserve further, careful consideration."

Badini said the Tokyo meeting is devoting much of its attention to the "quality" of the support. There was a "clear consensus on collective support" that is "solid, visible, tangible, concrete and tolerant to the Russian reforms," he said.

The meeting also discussed the importance of trade and how to increase market access for Russian products, he said.

Emergency Summit Depends on Referendum

OW1404122793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1211 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The Group of Seven (G-7) foreign and finance ministers agreed on Wednesday [14 April] to delay a decision on an emergency G-7 summit pending the outcome of the April 25 Russian referendum, a European Community (EC) official said. The ministers brought up the issue of holding a summit earlier than the Tokyo summit scheduled for July 7 to 9, but left the matter to the sherpas, or the summit leaders' personal representatives, to address, the official said.

The EC offered a new aid package of 1.8 billion dollars for Russia, or roughly 60 percent of the EC's 3 billion dollar aid program for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), he said. The new assistance is subject to EC Council approval, and conditionality of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is necessary, he added. The total amount comprises 1.22 billion dollars for technical assistance, 1.25 billion dollars in loans, and 500 million dollars for food and medical grants, he said. The details have yet to be worked out but credits will be offered for profitable industries, including the nuclear energy sector, he said.

Foreign Ministers Begin Talks

OW1404040193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0347 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries met in Tokyo on Wednesday [14 April] to discuss chiefly global political issues, particularly North Korea and former Yugoslavia, government sources said.

Ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States are expected to discuss North Korea's decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. They also are expected to discuss concerted action involving the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

The two days of talks, ending Thursday, also involve finance ministers and are focussed on aid to Russia.

Discuss DPRK, Bosnia, Cambodia

OW1404082993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0808 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Foreign ministers of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations agreed Wednesday [14 April] to continue trying to persuade North Korea to stay in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and seeking China to play a leading role, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

Officials said the ministers of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States also agreed to Russia's call for a few days' postponement of a planned U.N. Security Council resolution tightening sanctions against the former Yugoslavia.

The hourlong meeting came just ahead of a special meeting of the G-7 foreign and finance ministers on emergency aid for Russia to help President Boris Yeltsin win a crucial April 25 national referendum. Russia was not among the luncheon topics of the ministers.

Officials said the ministers also touched on the situation in Cambodia, agreeing that recent acts of "terrorism" should not be allowed to derail elections scheduled for late May. The reference was apparently to the recent spate of attacks against ethnic Vietnamese and U.N. personnel widely attributed to the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction, which is boycotting the election.

Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto was quoted as saying North Korea's decision last month to leave the NPT and its refusal to accept inspections of its suspected nuclear weapon development facilities presents a major problem. Muto said the international community must band together to convince Pyongyang to reverse its course, adding that it is particularly important for China to exercise its influence over North Korea in that regard.

Officials said some G-7 ministers, who other than Muto were not identified as a condition for the briefing, suggested economic sanctions against North Korea may have to be considered by the Security Council if diplomatic persuasion fails to yield results. Some ministers stressed the need for the powers of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to be strengthened as it is too weak to effectively fulfill its tasks, the officials said. It was also noted that the North Korean decision poses a challenge to the "credibility" of the NPT regime as it is the first time a party to the treaty has opted to withdraw.

The G-7 ministers were said to have shared concern about the gravity of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where neighboring Serbia is widely suspected of lending crucial support to ethnic Serb forces attacks against Muslims, which have drawn global condemnation. They agreed to Russia's wish for a brief postponement of a Security Council vote on tighter sanctions against Belgrade, considering domestic perceptions in Russia that the government's "selling out" the Serbs could adversely affect how it fares in the April 25 referendum. But the ministers were said to have stressed that a vote on the issue would nevertheless take place within the month.

Moscow had opposed an early vote on tougher sanctions on grounds the warring parties, particularly the Serbs, should be given "one last chance" to settle their differences. The proposed sanctions would ban all shipments of supplies to or through the former Yugoslavia, except for deliveries of humanitarian goods approved in advance by the Security Council.

Officials said in light of the worsening of shortages in Bosnia, some ministers said their governments were considering participation in resumed airdrops of food, medicine and other essentials in line with a recent call by the U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees.

Meanwhile, a Canadian official told KYODO NEWS SERVICE the ministers reviewed the Middle East peace process begun by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

On Cambodia, the ministers heard from Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs Barbara McDougall, who stressed the need for the United Nations to stand fast against threats to free and fair elections, the Canadian official said.

The G-7 foreign ministers backed the holding of a scheduled May general election in Cambodia, Japanese officials said. The ministers expressed support for Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk toward resolution of the country's difficulties, the officials said. The foreign ministers also agreed on efforts to help the United Nations' peacekeeping mission improve its means of communications. The Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction, one of the four Cambodian parties, has declared it will boycott the May 22-27 general election.

Urge Pressure on Serbia

OW1404084393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0831 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The foreign ministers of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations on Wednesday [14 April] called for "building up pressure" to prevent Serbian forces in Bosnia from killing more Bosnians.

A senior British diplomat told KYODO NEWS SERVICE the conference discussed the importance of putting additional pressure on Serbia, whose forces have reportedly gunned down or shelled thousands of Bosnia's largely Muslim populace.

"It is important to build up pressure against Serbs" to force them to stop a further onslaught, the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity. His comments came a day after former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher blasted the European Community for being a virtual "accomplice" by not intervening more forcibly in the country.

On the question of aid to Russia, the British diplomat said, "The important thing today is not figures. The important thing today is to have a long-term commitment to helping Russia." Commenting on Japan's 1.82 billion dollar aid package for Russia, he said, "we are happy with the overall Japanese attitude."

Finance Chiefs Discuss Aid to Russia

OW1404062093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0604 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Finance ministers of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialized nations spent little time on currency exchange rates at a luncheon meeting Wednesday, Japanese Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said. The G-7 finance ministers, meeting in Tokyo before the start of a two-day conference on emergency aid to Russia, spent most of the luncheon meeting discussing Russia. Japanese Government officials said the luncheon meeting was informal.

German Finance Minister Theodor Waigel also indicated that the ministers spent little time discussing exchange rate issues. He said he told his counterparts that Germany does not intend to step up its bilateral aid to Russia and that the potential G-7 assistance ought to focus on multilateral measures.

The G-7 meeting was being closely watched by the financial markets in light of the Japanese yen's recent sharp appreciation against the U.S. dollar. In Tokyo, the dollar ended the Wednesday morning session at 113.47 yen, up 0.14 yen from the previous day's closing rate.

IAEA's Blix: Agency Ready To Hold Talks With DPRK

OW1404141093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1356 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Yokohama, April 14 KYODO—The head of an international nuclear watchdog said Wednesday [14 April] it has urged North Korea to allow regular inspections to resume on nuclear facilities agreed upon by both sides.

Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said the agency is ready to have talks with North Korea over nuclear issues, and much time is needed to resolve the matter. Blix, who is visiting Japan to attend an annual meeting of Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, made the remarks in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

North Korea has refused to allow special inspections of two suspect sites it says are nonnuclear military facilities and announced March 12 it would withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. North Korea allowed six inspections of its facilities on the list agreed upon after it ratified a safeguards agreement with the agency last April.

The IAEA pointed to the discrepancy between the amount of plutonium reported by North Korea and that measured by agency inspectors. It urged Pyongyang to allow special inspection of the two suspect facilities.

Under a special inspection, IAEA inspectors can visit installations a nation has not included in a list of its nuclear facilities submitted to the agency.

The IAEA on April 1 referred the matter to the United Nations Security Council, which adopted a statement last Thursday expressing concern over North Korea's stance.

Japan

Miyazawa: U.S. Paper 'Twisted' Trade Comments

OW1304093493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0907 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tuesday THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper "twisted" his words when it reported he welcomes U.S. pressure on Japan to solve the trade imbalance. The newspaper, in a story from Tokyo, said Miyazawa suggested that he wants tough pressure on trade issues from President Bill Clinton when the two leaders meet Friday [16 April] in Washington because Japan needs outside pressure to change.

The paper reported Miyazawa said pressure from outside, known in Japan as "gaiatsu," can persuade the Japanese Government to undertake domestically unpopular measures. It said Miyazawa told the reporters such pressure would help solve the trade imbalance. But when asked by Japanese reporters to comment on the article at the prime minister's official residence Tuesday, Miyazawa said, "they shouldn't twist (my comments)."

The WASHINGTON POST article also said Miyazawa refused to set specific targets or quotas for U.S. imports in the Japanese market. "I am very eager, enthusiastic, and committed to decrease our trade imbalance... But that must be done within the context of the free trade system," the paper quoted Miyazawa as saying. He will fly to Washington to meet Clinton immediately after the G-7 ministers' meeting.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, in a story based on the same interview, said Miyazawa will tell Clinton of a plan to stimulate the Japanese economy with more than 100 billion dollars in government spending. But the paper reported Miyazawa said Japan will not set aside a specific portion of the spending for the purchase of U.S.-made goods.

Both papers said Miyazawa dismissed comments reportedly made by Clinton to Russian President Boris Yeltsin at their April 3-4 Vancouver summit that a Japanese "yes" can often mean "no."

THE WASHINGTON POST quoted Miyazawa as referring to a popular song from the 1950s. "You all remember, don't you, 'Yes, We Have No Bananas'? That's more the way we converse, we Japanese."

Kono: Miyazawa's Intent Not Clearly Conveyed

OW1304150693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1452 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tuesday THE WASHINGTON POST "twisted" his words when it wrote he wants U.S. pressure on trade issues, as the government moved to limit fallout from the report on the eve of the premier's first meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"If THE (WASHINGTON POST) interpreted the premier's comments to mean that Japan does not take action without foreign pressure, then it clearly did not convey the prime minister's true views," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono told a news conference.

The newspaper, in a story from Tokyo, quoted Miyazawa as telling a group of U.S. reporters Monday that U.S. pressure on trade "will be felt."

"That some requests be made to Japan, if the request is reasonable, then the Japanese people like to go along. If they are good suggestions, then people will be sold on the idea," Miyazawa was quoted as saying.

"A certain pressure that we should do something to correct this (the trade imbalance)...is the way we try to accommodate ourselves," he said.

In the interview, conducted in English, Miyazawa said, "I am not trying to justify the gaiatsu (foreign pressure-)...but...that is the way we try to learn from you the rules of the game...It's a reflection of our history and tradition. It is like your mother telling her child to do this or not do that—otherwise your neighbor might laugh at you. This is the way of education in this country."

Miyazawa Meets With Christopher, Bentsen

OW1404054093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0436 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher urged Japan's Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday to continue trying to stimulate Japan's domestic demand in order to curb exports and encourage imports, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The officials said Christopher, who was joined by Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, made the request in a half-hour discussion with Miyazawa prior to a two-day meeting of Group of Seven (G-7) foreign and finance ministers and their Russian counterparts. The ministers are gathering to discuss emergency aid to Russia.

Christopher and Bentsen were quoted as welcoming the Japanese Government's announcement Tuesday of a 13.2 trillion yen package of measures for this year to rev up the sluggish Japanese economy.

The officials said Christopher told Miyazawa he hopes Japan will revert to a pattern of domestic-demand led economic growth that existed here in 1986 to 1990. They said he stressed the importance of undertaking a macroeconomic approach to tackling the spiraling U.S.-Japan trade deficit in Japan's favor.

He told Foreign Minister Kabun Muto in talks Tuesday that there is also a need for the two nations to tackle issues from the perspective of structural problems and sector-specific problems.

Miyazawa is scheduled to leave Japan on Thursday for talks Friday in Washington with U.S. President Bill Clinton, in what will be the two leaders' first meeting.

The officials said Christopher told Miyazawa that Clinton is eagerly looking forward to the meeting. Miyazawa noted that he received a call from Clinton on Tuesday evening.

Miyazawa Holds Meeting With With Jimmy Carter

OW1404085793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0841 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday that Japan enjoys an advantage in being host country for President Bill Clinton's first summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized countries.

"I think it is a great advantage for Japan that the first economic summit of President Clinton be here in Japan because it gives the President special insight into the people and culture," Carter said after emerging from a meeting with Miyazawa. Clinton will join leaders of Germany, France, Britain, Italy, and Canada at the July 7-9 annual economic summit.

Carter said he also told Miyazawa "a few things" that might assist him in his first meeting with Clinton in Washington on Friday. A Foreign Ministry official said Carter also explained projects he has undertaken to eradicate the deadly Guinea worm found in Africa, and provide technical assistance to Russian television.

Carter, in Japan on a private invitation, is slated to have breakfast Thursday with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who served in his administration, and Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, the official said. The two U.S. cabinet members are attending an emergency G-7 ministerial meeting on aid to Russia.

Clinton Informs Miyazawa of More Aid to Russia

OW1304153993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1506 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—U.S. President Bill Clinton told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday that the United States would pledge aid to Russia at a two-day conference in Tokyo beginning Wednesday in addition to 1.6 billion dollars recently offered, Foreign Ministry officials said. Officials said Clinton made the remarks to Miyazawa in a 10- minute telephone conversation ahead of a Group of Seven (G-7) foreign and finance ministers' meeting in Tokyo on emergency aid to Russia in support of embattled President Boris Yeltsin's reform program.

The additional U.S. contribution is expected to bring closer to 40 billion dollars the total package of G-7 assistance.

Miyazawa was said to have explained the Japanese offer he is set to announce in a speech at the opening of the conference on Wednesday.

The G-7 countries are Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the U.S. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fyodorov and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will join the conference.

Officials said Clinton initiated the call. Miyazawa will be traveling to Washington on Thursday for talks with Clinton on Friday. It will be their first meeting after Clinton took office in January.

Russian Aid Includes Oil, Gas Projects Support

OW1304060793 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 13 Apr 93

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] The government has decided to grant a total of $1.82 billion in aid to Russia to support such projects as developing Russian oil and natural gas and improving plutonium storage facilities needed for dismantling nuclear weapons. This was approved at a meeting among the Foreign Ministry, Finance Ministry, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, and other relevant ministries and agencies.

According to the decision reached at the meeting, the aid to Russia will be used as follows: a total of $1.5 billion—which is composed of $1.1 billion in trade insurance and a $400-million loan from the Export-Import Bank of Japan—for improvement of facilities needed for developing energy sources, including oil and natural gas; $100 billion for disposal of plutonium storage facilities and nuclear missile fuel, which became unnecessary as a result of dismantling of nuclear weapons, and for improvement of nuclear waste storage facilities and other facilities; $100 million for humanitarian aid such as supply of food and medical goods; and $120 million for upgrading and improving small-to-medium-sized enterprises.

As a result of this decision, the total amount of Japan's aid to Russia reached $1.82 billion, which exceeds the $1.6 billion in aid from the United States and is the largest amount of aid among the developed countries.

Prime Minister Miyazawa will announce this aid measure at the ministerial meeting of the G-7 (seven developed nations' ministerial meeting), which will be held in Tokyo starting tomorrow.

Bentsen Cited on Importance of Aid to Russia

OW1304134393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1317 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen on Tuesday stressed the need to produce a specific program of assistance for Russia at a two-day Group of Seven (G-7) ministerial meeting in Tokyo starting Wednesday.

Bentsen said at a press conference, "We must, together, do what we can to support the democratic reformers and the market economy in Russia." He also welcomed indications by Japan it will set aside its territorial dispute with Russia in discussing aid. "I think it's a realization by Japan of the importance of what's taking place in Russia today and how important it is for the entire world that we see a peaceful transition to a market economy and democratization of the country."

Bentsen said the Russian economy has been badly battered with hyperinflation of 25 percent a month as a result of increased printing of rubles since last May. "It is critical to stabilize the currency," Bentsen said.

French Minister Not Proposing Early Summit

OW1404064193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0628 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told reporters he did not propose moving up the date of the Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries when he met his counterparts at a luncheon meeting Wednesday.

France had earlier called for moving up the Tokyo summit, set for July 7 to 9 in Tokyo, to show concerted western support for Russia's President Boris Yeltsin. But Japan has shown a negative stance toward the French proposal.

The foreign ministers gathered for an informal lunch prior to the opening on Wednesday afternoon of a two-day meeting on aid to Russia which is also being attended by G-7 finance ministers.

French Foreign Minister, Muto Hold Meeting

OW1404130393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto on Wednesday he supports an early resolution to Japan's territorial dispute with Russia, a Foreign Ministry official said.

"I hope that the territorial issue can be resolved as soon as possible based on law and justice," Juppe was quoted as saying in the 30-minute meeting. He made the comment after Muto expressed support for reforms in Russia, but said the government needs to win approval for aid to Russia from Japanese taxpayers. Tokyo is seeking the return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, seized by the Soviet Army at the close of World War II.

Muto and Juppe, who both took over their foreign ministerial portfolios in the past month, also agreed to cooperate in Cambodia and Vietnam, both of which were former French colonies, the official said. Muto told Juppe that Japan will not withdraw its peacekeepers from Cambodia in the wake of last week's murder of a Japanese election volunteer, the official said.

Touching on Indonesian President Suharto's request to join the Tokyo summit of leaders of seven major industrialized nations, the two ministers agreed to continue examining the possibility. Suharto, who currently chairs the group of Nonaligned Nations, wants to attend the July 7-9 gathering to draw the attention of wealthy nations to issues faced by developing countries. Japan has pledged to try to present Suharto's views at the meeting.

The official said Juppe made no mention of a proposal by French President Francois Mitterrand to call an emergency summit of G-7 leaders in advance of the July meeting. The G-7 members are Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev Arrives

OW1404023593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0218 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday to join foreign and finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial countries gathering to discuss aid to Russia.

Kozyrev and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov are scheduled to meet their counterparts from the G-7 countries at a dinner Wednesday evening hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. They will take part in the second round of the ministerial meetings Thursday morning at a Tokyo hotel.

The ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States will start the two-day meeting Wednesday afternoon.

The Russian foreign minister will meet Miyazawa on Wednesday and Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto on Thursday. His talks with Miyazawa and Muto are expected to focus on the rescheduling of a visit to Japan by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Replying to a question from a KYODO News Service reporter, Yeltsin said Monday he would reschedule his visit to Japan probably some time in May. He added Kozyrev will discuss the matter with Japanese leaders when the Russian foreign minister visits Tokyo.

Yeltsin abruptly canceled the planned visit to Japan last September, citing domestic problem. But he later blamed Japan on its tough demand for the return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido.

Says Yeltsin To Reschedule Visit

OW1404041393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0400 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said Wednesday that President Boris Yeltsin would decide the date of his visit to Japan after considering the outcome of a special international meeting in Tokyo on aid to Russia.

Kozyrev, speaking to reporters upon arrival at Narita Airport to attend the meeting of foreign and finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations, said he is optimistic about the rescheduling of Yeltsin's visit to Japan.

Yeltsin told a KYODO News Service reporter on Monday in Moscow that he would probably visit Japan some time in May, adding that Kozyrev will discuss the matter with Japanese leaders while he is in Tokyo. Yeltsin abruptly canceled his planned visit to Japan last September, citing domestic problems. But he later blamed Japan for the cancellation because of its stance of pressing for the return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido.

Kozyrev and Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov are scheduled to meet ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States at a dinner Wednesday evening hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. They will take part in the second round of the G-7 meetings Thursday morning at a Tokyo hotel.

The Russian foreign minister will meet Miyazawa on Wednesday and Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto on Thursday. His talks with Miyazawa and Muto are expected to focus on the rescheduling of Yeltsin's visit to Japan.

Discusses Territorial Dispute

OW1404095893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0943 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Wednesday conveyed to Japan the intention of President Boris Yeltsin to visit Tokyo in May, Japanese officials said. Kozyrev passed on the message during a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, the officials said.

Miyazawa and Kozyrev agreed the foreign ministers of the two countries will finalize an exact date for Yeltsin to come to Tokyo. Kozyrev and Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto are scheduled to hold talks Thursday.

The officials said Miyazawa and Kozyrev talked about but did not negotiate the territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands over which Japan claims sovereignty. A Russian official who accompanied Kozyrev at the meeting said the two men had a "very good conversation."

Last September, Yeltsin abruptly canceled a visit to Japan, and later blamed Tokyo for its tough demand for the return of the islands.

Meanwhile, in an interview with the TBS [Tokyo Broadcast System] television network, Kozyrev said, "The subject of the territorial problem will naturally be on the agenda of the president's visit to Japan. "But our basic position is that this territorial problem must by no means close the door on the potential for economic and political cooperation between Japan and Russia, two powers both in the world and in Asia." Kozyrev's remarks were translated into Japanese from Russian.

Says Dispute Resolution Important

OW1404121893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1206 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa welcomed Wednesday a formal proposal by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to reschedule his postponed visit to Japan, possibly in May, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev conveyed Yeltsin's wishes to visit Japan in a meeting with Miyazawa at his official residence, the official said. Kozyrev was quoted as telling Miyazawa, "It is important to resolve the territorial issue to normalize relations," referring to a dispute over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido.

Miyazawa agreed, and pledged to make efforts to improve ties, the official said. A Russian official described the 90-minute meeting, an hour longer than scheduled, as a "very good conservation."

The Japanese official said the two men did not go into detail about Yeltsin's proposed visit or how to resolve the territorial dispute that has marred relations between Tokyo and Moscow ever since the end of World War II. Details of the visit will be discussed by Kozyrev and Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto during talks scheduled for Thursday, the official said.

The official said there was also no mention of Yeltsin's aborted visit last September that sent relations crashing to a low. Japan has bitter feelings over the snub, and analysts here have suggested an apology would help smooth relations. After abruptly calling off the visit for "domestic" reasons with only four days notice, Yeltsin later blamed Tokyo for its tough demands for the return of the islands.

Miyazawa and Kozyrev agreed, however, that careful preparations would be necessary to make Yeltsin's visit a success, the official said. "President Yeltsin's visit to Japan is an important step for the development of bilateral relations," Kozyrev was quoted as saying.

In reply, Miyazawa asked Kozyrev to tell Yeltsin that he wants to make the visit a success, the official said. Miyazawa opened the talks by explaining Japan's efforts as this year's host of the Group of Seven (G-7) annual summit to orchestrate assistance for Russia, the official said.

Kozyrev thanked Miyazawa for the 1.8 billion dollar pledge of bilateral aid the prime minister announced earlier in the day at the opening of the two-day session on aid to Russia attended by finance and foreign ministers from G-7 nations. He also expressed appreciation for the invitation to the gathering of ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States. Kozyrev and Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov are to join their G-7 counterparts for talks Thursday.

Picking up on a theme Miyazawa noted in an opening speech to the meeting, Kozyrev said Russia's self-efforts are important. He pledged Russia would continue to forge ahead with economic and political reforms after an April 15 referendum that will decide Yeltsin's future, the official said. Yeltsin is expected to also visit Japan for the July 7-9 Tokyo summit of G-7 leaders.

Appeals for Support for Reforms

OW1404113493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Wednesday sought greater financial support from major industrial countries, saying such aid would provide "a guarantee against sliding back to the cold war."

"The fate of Russian reforms is essentially a global problem," he told an audience in a lecture at a Tokyo hotel. Kozyrev requested greater Japanese support, saying, "support by the Japanese leaders of the Russian reforms and policies of President (Boris) Yeltsin is of key importance."

In a meeting with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday afternoon, Kozyrev said Yeltsin is looking forward to visiting Tokyo in May. He suggested that Japan should not press its longstanding demand that Russia return four islands off Hokkaido. He described the territorial row as "the burden of the past."

"We understand that this is not easy taking into account the burden of the past. However, Japan was able to rise above this and we highly value such an approach," he said.

Kozyrev vowed to avoid applying "any double standards" in trying to keep its international promise to ensure "nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction." He expressed Russia's concern over North Korea's unilateral declaration that it would withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Kozyrev arrived in Tokyo earlier on Wednesday to attend a meeting of foreign and finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations.

Visits Former Minister Watanabe

OW1404112393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1106 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Wednesday [14 April] visited his former counterpart Michio Watanabe at a Tokyo hospital, officials said. Kozyrev and Watanabe talked for 25 minutes past the scheduled 15 on a range of issues, the officials said. Topics included Japan's assistance to Russia and a longstanding territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido that were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II, they said.

Watanabe resigned as foreign minister on April 6 for health reasons and is undergoing medical treatment at a Tokyo hospital. He was replaced by Kabun Muto. Watanabe and Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi were orginally due to cochair the emergency meeting of foreign and finance ministers from the group of seven countries. The two-day session started Wednesday. Watanabe took office in the fall of 1991 and met Kozyrev six times.

Mori Welcomes Yeltsin's Plans To Visit

OW1304032693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0237 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Japan's trade minister on Tuesday welcomed reports that Russian President Boris Yeltsin intends to visit Tokyo before the July summit meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations.

Yoshiro Mori, international trade and industry minister, noted at a news conference that Yeltsin abruptly canceled a visit to Japan last September and that "maybe he now expects an improvement in relations. Probably he also hopes for assistance from the G-7 nations," Mori said.

Mori said Yeltsin's plan to visit Japan showed growing understanding on his part of the bilateral relationship.

Japan will host the annual summit from July 7 to 9. The other G- 7 members are Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United States.

Correspondent Views First Round of G-7 Meeting

OW1404130593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1009 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Discussion between NHK studio anchorman Kawabata and economic correspondent Ohashi on the outcome of the 14 April round of the meeting of foreign and finance ministers of the Group of Seven nations in Tokyo; from the "NHK News" program—live relay]

[Text] [Kawabata] We will now hear from economic correspondent Ohashi who is still at the location of the G-7 meeting. Mr. Ohashi, what specific agenda was discussed in the meeting, and have the contents of the $30 billion aid package been finalized?

[Ohashi] Today's meeting was wound up only 30 minutes ago. Thus, no specific contents have been revealed yet. However, according to sources close to the meeting, the framework of the aid package was almost fixed. The aim of the aid package this time was to provide Russia with aid that will be more visible to the Russian general public. The main pillar of the aid consists of loans by the International Monetary Fund, assistance in the energy field—which will help Russia earn foreign currency—and assistance to help nurture Russia's small and medium-sized enterprises. As for the size of the aid, $30 billion worth of aid will be provided to Russia. However, the $24 billion worth of aid launched at the Munich summit last year has failed to bring about satisfactory results. Also, Russia has expressed dissatisfaction with the aid package. Therefore, this time, rather than the size of the aid, specific aid measures have been emphasized in the new aid package, and therefore the overall lump sum would not be specifically mentioned. Now, this aid package will be officially disclosed in the chairman's statement, which will be issued after the conclusion of tomorrow's meeting.

[Kawabata] Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa revealed Japan's $1.82 billion worth of bilateral aid to Russia. How do other members assess this?

[Ohashi] Japan's bilateral aid includes emergency humanitarian aid as well as reconstruction funds for small and medium-sized enterprises and the oil and natural gas industries. Therefore, Japan's aid package is in line with the G-7 aid package. As for bilateral aid, at today's meeting the United States committed additional bilateral aid, which is expected to exceed $3 billion. Now among G-7 countries, Japan is the second biggest in bilateral aid to Russia. The amount is probably big enough to satisfy other G-7 nations since Japan is a summit-chairing country. Also, Japan's intention is to separate the aid issue from the northern territorial issue. And this aid plan represents Japan's positive attitude toward supporting Russia to avert other countries' criticism that Japan has always been passive about aid. Also, it will probably be good for improving Japanese-Russian relations, which have somehow been cooled down.

Tokyo To Send 50 Additional Workers to Cambodia

OW1304133393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—The United Nations on Tuesday requested Japan to dispatch 50 more civilian election workers to Cambodia to oversee a general election slated for May 23-27, Foreign Ministry officials said. In an official document, U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali asked Japan to deploy the 50 election workers in Cambodia for a three-week period starting May 13, the officials said.

The request came five days after U.N. volunteer Atsuhito Nakata was gunned down in an April 8 raid in the province of Kompong Thom by armed men suspected of being Khmer Rouge guerrillas. Undaunted by the killing, Japan will comply with the U.N. request, government officials said.

The officials said the current Cambodian situation has not yet overstepped Japan's five guidelines setting conditions for the dispatch of peacekeepers or civilian U.N. workers to trouble spots. The guidelines mandate, among other things, that a truce accord be in place among rival factions and that all factions agree to the presence of Japanese peacekeepers.

The government had earlier assembled a team of more than 50 civilian election workers from such organs as the government, local autonomous bodies and civic groups. After the news of the killing of the Japanese volunteer swept the nation, the government reconfirmed the readiness of the team to help the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) oversee the election of legislators to a new Cambodian parliament, the officials said.

Kono: KR Office Closure Within Peace Framework

OW1404054593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0428 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said Wednesday the Khmer Rouge [KR] decision to close its office in Phnom Penh is still within the framework of the Paris peace accords.

The Khmer Rouge told Cambodian head of state Norodom Sihanouk on Tuesday that it would shut down its office in the capital, raising fears that the faction may intensify its military activities. The Khmer Rouge opened the office near the Royal Palace last January, when its President Khieu Samphan joined the Supreme National Council, a national reconciliation body comprising representatives of the nation's four rival factions.

Political analysts said the closure of the office amounted to a declaration of "war" in an effort to block the United Nations mission's efforts to hold a U.N.-supervised democratic election. The scheduled May elections will see the selection of legislators to a parliament to draw up a constitution.

But Kono sidestepped any criticism of the move, saying at a regular news conference that although he is still trying to assess the intention behind the decision, it appears to be within the bounds of peace agreements brokered between Cambodia's warring factions.

"While they are withdrawing temporarily because they say the security of Khmer Rouge President Khieu Samphan can't be guaranteed, they say they have every intention of observing the Paris peace accords," Kono said.

Kono also said about 50 local government administrative personnel, originally due to be dispatched to Cambodia on May 13 for election monitoring, will be given the option of deciding whether they wish to take part in the mission. He said none of those chosen to go have asked to be withdrawn.

The Phnom Penh government said Monday that the killing of 25-year old Japanese United Nations volunteer Atsuhito Nakata, who was assisting with the election monitoring, was the work of the Khmer Rouge.

But in Maebashi, Gunma Prefecture, the local government said Wednesday it is considering instructing two of its officials not to take part in the election monitoring operations in Cambodia. The two Gunma Prefectural Government officials are among the 50 people the central government plans to send to the war-torn country as part of Japan's cooperation with the U.N. peacekeeping mission.

Other prefectural government officials said that currently 100 percent security has not been assured in Cambodia. They said that pending agreement of the two officials selected to go to Cambodia, Gunma Governor Hiroyuki Kodera will inform the central government next week about the prefecture's decision that they should remain at home.

First Engineering Group to Cambodia Disbanded

OW1404081193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0728 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Osaka, April 14 KYODO—The first contingent of some 600 Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) troops to serve as peacekeepers in Cambodia formally broke up Wednesday, several days after returning home from their six-month assignment.

At a ceremony at the GSDF Itami Camp marking the dissolution of the engineering battalion, Defense Agency Director General Toshio Nakayama said the Japanese peacekeepers had made a major contribution to the international community through their participation in the United Nations peacekeeping operation. Senior officers of the ground staff office and family members of the troops attended the ceremony.

Nakayama also delivered a citation from Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to the commander of the battalion, Lt. Col. Takashi Watanabe.

Outside the base, some 30 people staged a demonstration against the SDF's role in U.N. peacekeeping operations abroad. Police arrested one of them for allegedly violating the Road Traffic Law.

The contingent of engineering troops, based in Takeo in southern Cambodia, had rebuilt roads and bridges as part of their work after arriving last October. They returned home in two groups by last Saturday.

A new 600-strong GSDF unit will start work around April 20 on rebuilding roads and bridges as well as helping with arrangements for the May 23-25 general elections. Their stint will finish in late October.

Second SDF Contingent Returns

OW1004080393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0730 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Nagoya, April 10 KYODO—A second group of Japanese engineering troops returned Saturday [10 April] to Komaki Air Base near Nagoya from Cambodia, after six months of their peacekeeping operations there. The return of the 297-man group follows the first group of 300 Self-Defense Forces (SDF) engineering troops who arrived at the base.

Three officers from the first contingent remained in Cambodia to work in the military headquarters of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

About 400 family members and senior SDF officers welcomed the engineering troops to the base on their arrival.

Outside the base, civic groups staged demonstration against the dispatch of SDF troops overseas to join U.N. peacekeeping operations.

The first contingent of 600 engineering troops, based in Takeo in southern Cambodia, had rebuilt roads and bridges as part of the 22,000-member UNTAC since October. By Sunday, all 600 Japanese replacement troops will be in Cambodia to work on rebuilding roads and bridges as well as to help the May election.

Police Seek 4 in Scheme To Smuggle Chinese

OW1404094993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0827 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Kagoshima, April 14 KYODO—Police said Wednesday they have started an open search for two Japanese mobsters and two Chinese men on suspicion of running a scheme to smuggle Chinese into Japan. Police searched offices in Sapporo of the nation's largest crime syndicate, the Yamaguchi-gumi, and houses of its members in Tokyo in connection with the case Wednesday morning.

A group of 145 Chinese were taken to a detention center in Kagoshima, southern Japan, after being caught trying to illegally enter Japan on board a Japanese trawler April 1.

The four on the search list are Li Junxian, 29, and Zhuang Ruiping, 26, and Yamaguchi-gumi members Jun Sasaki, 44, and Toyokichi Ueda, 39. The four are suspected of conspiring with Takashi Abe, another syndicate member, to smuggle the Chinese into Japan without proper visas.

Abe, 49, the captain of the chartered trawler, No. 38 Nagato Maru, has already been arrested and indicted, along with three Japanese crew members. Police suspect Japanese gangsters may have started a clandestine network to lure Chinese seeking jobs in Japan.

In a related development, the Kagoshima District Public Prosecutors Office on Wednesday set three of the 145 Chinese free because they are minors.

Tokyo, Beijing Agree on Yarn, Fabric Trade

OW1004120793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1057 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—Japan and China have reached agreement on new quotas of Chinese silk exports to Japan in fiscal 1993, government sources said Saturday. The agreement reached at a two-day session that closed in Beijing on Saturday calls for a cut in silk fabric exports but allows gains in raw silk and silk yarn shipments, the sources said.

The quota for silk fabric exports was set at 7.2 million square meters, down 1.0 percent from the year before, they said.

The ceiling of silk yarn shipments was fixed at 15,000 bales, up 8.0 percent from the year before for the seventh straight annual rise, while the limit for raw silk shipments was raised 13 percent to 13,500 bales, the first increase in three years, the sources said.

Japan bowed to strong pressure from China to expand the quota for raw silk imports, which have been held at low levels in the past several years due to a slump in the domestic market, officials of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said.

The officials said raw silk inventories held at the government- financed Japan Rawsilk and Sugar Price Stabilization Agency are expected to decline to 25,000 bales at the end of May.

Japan: Qatar Foreign Minister Arrives in Tokyo

OW1204092493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0903 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Qatar Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabir Al Thani arrived in Japan on Monday for a four-day official visit, the Foreign Ministry said. Al Thani, 34, is scheduled to hold talks Tuesday with Foreign Minister Kabun Muto. He will have an audience with Emperor Akihito later in the day. Officials said Al Thani and Muto will discuss bilateral relations and the situation in the Persian Gulf region.

U.S. fighter jets Friday attacked an Iraqi artillery battery after they were shot at while patrolling the northern "no-fly zone" in Iraq.

Al Thani said last month Qatar is offering its good offices for the release of Kuwaitis still detained in Iraq after the end of the August 1990 to February 1991 Persian Gulf crisis.

Japan is Qatar's largest export market for its oil, as well as its biggest source of imports.

Reportage on Economic Stimulus Package Continues

Monetary Breakdown Detailed

OW1304095293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0936 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Following are highlights of the government's new 13.2 trillion yen economic stimulus package.

1. 10.62 trillion yen earmarked for consolidation of "new social infrastructure," this is made up of:
—4.17 trillion yen for general public works projects
—1.15 trillion yen for educational, research, medical, and social welfare projects
—3.5 trillion yen for local public works projects
—1.8 trillion yen for promotion of housing projects

2. 1.91 trillion yen for assistance to small and medium-scale enterprises.

3. 520 billion yen for promotion of private-sector capital investment.

4. 28 billion yen for job security and employment promotion.

5. About 150 billion yen for tax cuts.

Miyazawa Expresses Confidence

OW1304125693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo April 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressed confidence Tuesday that the government's new 13.2 trillion yen economic stimulus package will spur the economy.

"The size and speed of compiling the package were epoch-making. It is certain that, together with last summer's measures, the new package will yield big results," Miyazawa was quoted as telling a meeting of economic ministers.

The stimulus program, equal to 2.8 percent of Japan's fiscal 1992 gross national product, comes on the tail of a 10.7 trillion yen fiscal package unveiled last August.

Miyazawa said the 10.62 trillion yen earmarked for "new social infrastructure," a category including educational, public works and housing funds, would contribute to enhancing the quality of people's life, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono told reporters. Miyazawa also called for early compilation of a supplementary budget, but did not specify a date, Kono said.

KYODO Cites Bentsen on Package

OW1304121493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1156 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen on Tuesday expressed his hopes that Japan's new stimulus package will help relieve the Japan-U.S. trade imbalance. Bentsen said at a news conference upon arrival in Tokyo that the stimulus package will "generate demand and consumption in Japan and encourage imports coming into the country and get a better balance in the benefits of trade, particularly between the United States and Japan."

Bentsen urged Japan to make further contributions to the growth of the global economy, saying that the nation is in a very good position to make such contributions due to its relatively small national debt and substantial trade surplus.

Bentsen is here to attend a meeting of foreign and finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations. The meeting, scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, is to focus on bilateral and multilateral assistance for Russia.

Top Banker: Package 'Big Enough'

OW1304105493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1003 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Japan's top banker expressed high hopes Tuesday the government's colossal economic package announced earlier in the day will give the economy a sizable boost.

Speaking at his last press conference as chairman of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, Tsuneo Wakai praised the 13.2 trillion yen program as "timely and big enough" to bring about an economic turnaround.

Wakai said the package will contribute to lessening Japan's persisting trade surplus, which topped 111 billion yen in fiscal 1992, by bolstering the sagging domestic demand for imports. "And this will put a brake on the rapid ascent of the yen, which in turn will be good for the economy," he said.

Charged by the belief other nations welcome a strong yen as helpful in reducing Japan's trade gap, the yen has jumped by around 10 yen to the dollar over the past two months, worrying Japanese industry, especially exchange rate-sensitive exporters.

Asked about hundreds of bogus 10,000 yen notes passed in western Japan, Wakai said the association has distributed warnings to member banks operating in other parts of the country. He said the association will immediately study countermeasures, including improvements to money-changing machines to make them more resistant to fake notes.

Wakai, also president of Mitsubishi Bank, will finish his one-year term as association head April 20 and be succeeded by Tadashi Okuda, president of Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank.

Brokerage Firms Welcome Package

OW1304105593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1023 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—The securities industry on Tuesday welcomed the record 13.2 trillion yen economic package announced by the government as a main factor behind a powerful rally on the Tokyo stock exchange. The key Nikkei average of 225 selected issues recovered the 20,000 yen mark Tuesday on a closing basis for the first time in about 13 months.

A major brokerage house heaped particular praise on a new type of public works program which puts emphasis on the improvement of social infrastructure centering on the consolidation of telecommunications and information networks.

Some industry officials expressed hope that the package will contribute to shifting the export-oriented domestic economy to one centered on domestic demand.

Keidanren Head Hails Package

OW1304125793 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Commenting on the government's decision on an additional pump-priming package, Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of Federation of Economic Organizations of Japan [Keidanren] said:

[Begin Hiraiwa recording] The government has decided on an additional pump-priming package which is the largest ever and exceeds the previous pump-priming package the government decided on last August. I would like to hail the government for deciding on the additional pump-priming package. I also hope the current Diet session will approve the additional pump-priming package. I think the government needs to implement the additional pump-priming package immediately after the current Diet session approves it. [end recording]

Miyazawa: Plan To Help Cut Surplus

OW1404035593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0255 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Wednesday his government's newly announced giant economic stimulus package will enable Japan to slash its trade surplus. Miyazawa was responding to a report released Tuesday that showed Japan's trade surplus in fiscal 1992, which ended March 31, amounted to a record 111.3 billion dollars.

The prime minister told reporters at his official residence that the surge is in a range he has expected.

Miyazawa said the 13.2 trillion yen pump-priming package—the largest-ever—announced Tuesday by the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party will produce a favorable impact on the nation's sagging economy. One such favorable effect would be a boost in domestic demand, which the United States has been calling on Japan to bring about, Miyazawa added.

Hayashi: Package To Spur Growth

OW1404070393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0640 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi expressed confidence Wednesday that the government's new 13.2 trillion yen pump-priming package will lead to sustained economic growth for Japan.

Hayashi also said he is certain that the package, combined with the fiscal 1993 budget, will bolster the Japanese economy in the first half of the fiscal year that began April 1 and to keep up the recovery in the second half of the year. The remarks came in a speech read on Hayashi's behalf by Vice Finance Minister Mamoru Ozaki to a meeting of the Trust Companies Association of Japan.

In addition, Hayashi said, the government will compile a fiscal 1993 supplementary budget and work out tax reform plans for presentation to the current Diet.

On uncertainties surrounding the national financial system, he said financial institutions are working hard to reduce their bad loans through Cooperative Credit Purchasing Co., which they jointly established early this year. He noted the company bought 680 billion yen worth of claims to banks' bad loans in the year ended March 31. Hayashi said, however, that long and hard work will be required to remove uncertainties over the financial system.

He also said the Finance Ministry seeks to promote smooth implementation of the financial reforms that went into effect April 1. The reforms allow banks, trust banks, insurance companies and brokerages to enter each other's markets through subsidiaries in an effort to improve service to customers and pave the way for foreign concerns to enter Japanese financial markets.

Hayashi urged Japanese trust banks to offer better customer service in the face of intensifying competition in the market with the entry of new rivals.

MITI Vice Head Anxious About High Yen

OW1204065593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0602 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Japan's top trade bureaucrat Yuji Tanahashi on Monday [12 April] voiced grave concern about the high-flying Japanese yen on currency markets.

Tanahashi, vice minister of international trade and industry, called the yen's latest upsurge "too sharp. I'm worried (the high yen) will deal a rather big negative impact on Japanese industry at a time it is striving to crawl out of the deep bussiness slump," he said at a news conference.

The Japanese currency touched a historic intraday low of 112.77 yen against the dollar in Monday morning foreign exchange trading in Tokyo. Investors say the continued uptrend is against a backdrop of the unabated Japanese trade surplus and expected pickup in the domestic economy.

Industries Fearful Strong Yen May Ruin Recovery

OW1204140993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1315 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Anxiety spread among Japanese industries Monday that the momentum for economic recovery may be ruined by the yen's relentless climb to record highs in foreign exchange trading. The yen ended Tokyo trading Monday at 112.95 yen to the dollar, the highest closing rate in Tokyo.

Retail industry sources say even though a stronger yen gives people more purchasing power, a continued rise in the currency will dampen consumption because of expectations the economy will be weakened.

An executive at Nippon Steel Corp. said the higher yen is harmful because it has already increased steel exports in the face of declining domestic demand. Steel industry leaders are also worried exports of the automobile and electrical industries will decline, further undermining domestic demand for steel.

Canon Inc., whose exports account for about 80 percent of its entire sales, said its in-house exchange rate is 120 yen to the dollar, forcing it to raise copy machine prices in the United States. Canon Sales Co. also said the rate should be around 115 yen in consideration of the price hike and exchange contract risk.

Toyota Motor Corp., which calculates profits at an in-house rate of 125 yen, said if it drops below the 120 yen level it would be difficult to maintain profits.

Mieno Expects Economy To 'Start Picking Up'

OW1404071293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0654 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday [14 April] that the nation's economy will start picking up steam in the second half of this fiscal year.

"Getting a boost from fiscal and monetary measures taken so far, the economy is expected to start moving a recovery path in the second fiscal half, although the speed of recovery will be gradual," Mieno said in a speech delivered to the annual Conference of Trust Banks. The nation's economy, currently mired in its deepest slump in two decades, has in recent days exhibited "some bright signals" such as a recovery in new car sales, a second consecutive month of rising industrial shipments, and steadily advancing stock prices, he said.

These signs led BOJ branch managers gathered at their regular meeting in Tokyo last week to the conclusion that "the decline in business confidence is at long last coming to a halt," the central bank chief noted. He quickly cautioned, however, that "one-time factors" are part of the reason for the improvement in economic indicators, and close observation will be needed to determine whether the figures really translate into genuine economic recovery.

Indeed, the current state of the economy is far from healthy, with capital investment and consumer spending remaining in the doldrums, as well as sluggish production and shaky corporate finance, he said. He said that based on these facts, "we cannot help but think the economic pickup should come only gradually."

In light of the present weakness of the economy, the government's latest move Tuesday to stimulate the economy with a 13.2 trillion yen package of fiscal stimulus measures should be lauded as "very timely," he said. But indicating that he believes the central bank has done everything possible for the economy, Mieno only pledged "through monitoring" of how the package—along with two previous fiscal programs and the BOJ's rounds of credit eases—will work on the economy.

The BOJ governor also asked the members of the Trust Companies Association of Japan to do their utmost to regain the lost confidence in the Japanese financial system both at home and overseas. His recommended steps included steadfast restructuring efforts, especially on swollen bad loans resulting from the burst of the "bubble" economy, and boosting their capital bases.

"All these require some time and will cause due pain, but they cannot be dodged if financial institutions ever hope to recover sound management," he said.

Tokyo Plans To Front-Load More Public Works

OW1404093293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0857 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The Japanese Government plans to front-load its public works spending by 75.7 percent in the first half of the current fiscal year in order to pump up the sagging economy, officials said Wednesday [14 April]. That will bring the value of contracts to be made within the first six months of fiscal 1993 started this month to 12.33 trillion yen, out of 16.28 trillion yen for the full fiscal year, they said.

They also said the front-loaded sum of public works spending contracts will be 5.9 percent more than similar investments made in the first half of fiscal 1991, when public works spending was front- loaded by 75.2 percent.

According to the Finance Ministry, roughly 68 percent of contracts are usually made within the first fiscal half without any engineering done.

The officials also said the government especially hopes to concentrate the spending in the April-June quarter.

Banks Might Hike Long-Term Prime Rate in May

OW1404130693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Long-term credit banks may raise the long-term prime rate by 0.2-0.3 percentage point in May, the first hike in about one year, financial sources reported Wednesday. The prime rate, or the preferential interest rate on long-term loans to creditworthy customers, now stands at 4.9 percent per annum.

The sources said the banks, including the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan, may be forced to raise the rate due to the softening of the bond market resulting from bullish stock prices. They said the yield on the benchmark No. 145 government bond issue hit a high of about three months while its price moved downward.

They said the yield on five-year interest-bearing bank debentures issued in April has also climbed and stayed above 4.3 percent since the middle of last week against the 4.0 percent coupon rate. Long- term credit banks usually modify their prime rates when the gap between the coupon rate and the yield widens to more than 0.2 percentage point.

The sources said the Finance Ministry may refuse to approve a prime rate hike for fear it may adversely affect the domestic economy.

Finance Ministry Posts To Be Reshuffled

OW1304114793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi has decided on a reshuffle of key personnel in his ministry and the National Tax Administration Agency, ministry officials said Tuesday. The officials said Jiro Saito, director general of the Finance Ministry's Budget Bureau, will be promoted to vice finance minister, succeeding outgoing Mamoru Ozaki.

Kyosuke Shinozawa, director of the Secretariat, will succeed Saito as head of the Budget Bureau, they said.

They said Eisuke Hamamoto, director general of the Tax Bureau, will succeed Masaaki Tsuchida as director general of the National Tax Administration Agency.

The officials said Tadao Chino, vice finance minister for international affairs, will retire and be replaced by Kosuke Nakahira, director general of the ministry's International Finance Bureau. They said the reshuffle will be formally announced after the close of the current session of the Diet in late June.

LDP Lawmakers Attend Reform Group Meeting

OW1104122993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1018 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Urayasu, Chiba Pref., April 11 KYODO—A new political group seeking to renew Japan's politics held its first national meeting Sunday, attracting 27 lawmakers of the ruling and opposition parties who ignored their parties' call to stay away.

Some 6,000 people attended the meeting of the "Heisei Ishin-no- kai" (The Reform of Heisei Group), formed last November 25 by Kenichi Ohmae, president of Management Consulting Company McKinsey and Co. (Japan). "Heisei" is the name used to designate the Japanese imperial era which started after the death of Emperor Hirohito and with the ascension of Emperor Akihito on January 7, 1989.

Among the participants were 27 parliamentarians who included 13 Diet members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and three from the nation's largest opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP). Forty-seven Diet members from the ruling and opposition parties sent proxies.

Akira Yamagishi, who heads the nation's largest trade union, the Japanese Confederation of Trade Unions (Rengo), also attended.

Ohmae told the meeting that the "silent majority have stood up with loudspeakers" in their hands. He criticized LDP and SDP leaders for calling on their members to "practice self-restraint" and not attend the group's meeting, saying those taking part in politics should not "turn away their eyes from us."

Hiraiwa: JCCI Chief Should Decide on Future

OW1204120393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—A top Japanese business leader said Monday the decision on whether the chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) should resign over a political scandal is up to the chairman himself. Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), made the statement at a press conference in Tokyo in reference to JCCI Chairman Rokuro Ishikawa's possible resignation to take responsibility for his company's alleged links to a money scandal.

Ishikawa is chairman of Kajima Corp., a major general contractor, which is alleged to have links to a scandal involving Shin Kanemaru, former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), over secret political contributions. Hiraiwa said it is not the time for Ishikawa to make up his mind since investigation into the matter is still under way.

On the proposed electoral system reform, the Keidanren head said now is the last chance for political reform and called on the ruling and opposition parties to make mutual concessions to draw up a compromise plan.

Firms To Build Second Fast Breeder Reactor

OW1404081093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0737 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Japanese electric power companies have agreed to build a second demonstration fast breeder reactor incorporating new technologies, industry sources said Wednesday.

A committee of the Federation of Electric Power Companies reached the agreement in a recent meeting, the sources said. The demonstration reactor will be designed to demonstrate the technical and economic feasibilities of the reactor.

Japan Atomic Power Co. has already completed a basic design for the first demonstration reactor for the industry association. The fast breeder reactor, which uses a combination of plutonium and uranium as a fuel and produces its own plutonium, is highly efficient in fuel use.

A prototype fast breeder reactor, known as "Monju," is expected to reach a critical level, the operating stage for sustaining a chain reaction, this fall in Fukui Prefecture, central Japan.

The sources said studies on making a reactor earthquake-proof, being done with the first demonstration reactor, will be continued with the second reactor.

A major question concerning the fast breeder reactor is the construction cost, and industry officials have said one demonstration reactor is not enough for cost studies. Under Japan's existing long-term nuclear power development program, the fast breeder reactor is expected to go into commercial operation around 2030.

MITI Plans Licenses for Software Engineers

OW1404102793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) plans to start a license system for visual software engineers for personal computers (PCs) in fiscal 1994 to boost software quality, ministry officials said Wednesday.

By setting new standards for software engineers to meet, MITI expects the new system to enhance the quality of visual software programs, which is believed to be a key factor for the next generation's improvement of so-called multimedia devices. Multimedia allows users' interactive PC access to audio and visual information, therefore it needs advanced software technology.

MITI is considering granting a subsidy for the software industry to build up the industry and the subsidy will be provided to software houses according to the number of software engineers' licenses they obtain, ministry officials said.

The ministry has not yet set any standards for the license system, but it will launch a trial examination in April and May for some 100 students in electronics-related schools to gather data to use in setting the standards.

The Japan Video Association is making a textbook for the systematic education of visual software production, which includes a comprehensive study of visual art theory and computer graphics, association officials said.

Pilots Union Strikes JAS, Cancelling Flights

OW1404150793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1444 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Two unions associated with Japan Airlines (JAL) called off strikes on Wednesday [14 April] following an agreement on wage negotiations, officials said. A domestic flight between Naha and Haneda and two international flights, between Nagoya and Pusan and from Hiroshima to Seoul, would have been canceled if the strikes had gone ahead.

The unions took partial strike action Wednesday but the airline maintained services by relying on management and members of other unions.

Meanwhile, members of the Pilots' Union of Japan Air System (JAS) went on strike the same day to press for a pay hike, forcing the cancellation of 262 of the airline's domestic flights.

Three unions representing All Nippon Airways (ANA) employees called off a threatened strike after deciding to accept a management pay offer.

North Korea

Spokesman Denounces Russia's Nuclear Weapons Handling

SK1404001993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Yesterday [12 Apr], a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman answered a question of Korean Central News Agency reporters on the recent dispute which is growing acute between Russia and some countries of the CIS over the nuclear problem. The following is his answer:

As already reported, Russia, as a country that inherited the former Soviet Union's nuclear weapons, has failed to properly dispose of nuclear weapons in the CIS and, worse still, is engaged in a serious polemic with CIS countries over this problem.

People around the world are becoming suspicious of Russia as it does not have a clear way of dismantling its nuclear weapons and, furthermore, it is unable to properly control the nuclear weapons scattered throughout its land. This is a great threat to peace and security in Asia.

We cannot but be deeply concerned over this, as our country is a neighbor bordering Russia.

Russia has illegally dumped dangerous nuclear waste into the East Sea of Korea and other waters and is unable to properly solve the problem of nuclear weapons in its territory and in the CIS countries. Yet it is joining force with the United States in trying to tell us what to do regarding our fictitious nuclear problem. This is truly ridiculous.

It is our view that Russia had better mind its own business, instead of obtrusively poking its nose into the affairs of others.

Ministry Comments on Russia's Nuclear Situation

SK1304151693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1122 GMT 13 Apr 93

["DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Problem [word indistinct] Nuclear Weapons Between Russia [words indistinct]"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 13 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today answered a question of KCNA on the dispute which is growing acute between Russia and some countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States over the nuclear problem these days.

He said:

As already reported, Russia, as the nuclear successor to the former Soviet Union, has failed to properly dispose of the nuclear weapons present in the Commonwealth of Independent States and, worse still, is engaged in a serious polemic with CIS countries over this problem.

Now Russia does not have a clear way of dismantling the nuclear weapons, causing the doubt of the world people and, furthermore, it cannot properly control the nuclear weapons lying scattered all over the land. This is a great threat to peace and security of Asia.

We cannot but be deeply concerned over this, taking into consideration that our country is a neighbour bordering on Russia.

Russia has illegally dumped dangerous nuclear [words indistinct] into the East Sea on Korea and other waters and is unable to properly solve the problem of nuclear weapons existing actually in its territory and in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Yet it is joining force [word indistinct] the United States in trying to instruct us over our fictitious "nuclear problem". This is the height of folly, indeed.

It is our view that Russia had better mind its own business instead of obtrusively poking its nose into others' affairs.

Jiang Zemin Congratulates Kim Chong-il on Election

SK1404003393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a message of greetings from Comrade Jiang Zemin, chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission, on his election as chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission.

The message reads:

Pyongyang

Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission:

I warmly congratulate you upon receipt of the joyous news that you have been elected chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission. I take this opportunity to wholeheartedly wish that friendship between the peoples and armies of China and Korea will continue to solidify and develop and wish you greater success in your work.

Jiang Zemin, chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission.

[Dated] 11 April 1993, Beijing.

PRC Leaders Greet Kim Il-song on Birthday

SK1404014093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The Communist Party of China [CPC] Central Committee sent a flower basket and gift to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

On the occasion of the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and DPRK president, the CPC Central Committee sent a flower basket and gift to him.

Zheng Yi, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country, today conveyed the flower basket and gift for the respected leader to Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee.

At the talks, the Ambassador, under authorization of the CPC Central Committee, warmly [yolyolhi] congratulated Comrade President Kim Il-song, on his 81st birthday, in the name of Comrades Jiang Zemin, Deng Xiaoping, Li Peng, Qiao Shi and Li Ruihuan. He wished Comrade President Kim Il-song good health and long life.

He stressed that Comrade President Kim Il-song had made immortal achievements by carrying out the indomitable and unyielding struggle for a long period of time.

He said that the Korean people today, under the leadership of Comrade President Kim Il-song and the WPK, are effecting a constant upsurge in socialist construction by demonstrating the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and struggling arduously.

Noting that Comrade President Kim Il-song is making every effort to end the tragedy of division and to achieve Korea's reunification, he said that Comrade President Kim Il-song illuminated the road for national reunification by putting forward the 10-point program of great unity of the whole country for national reunification.

He said that Comrade President Kim Il-song had provided China-DPRK friendship together with President Mao Zedung and Premier Zhu Enlai, and constantly developed this friendship.

He emphasized that the Chinese party and government will make all efforts to strengthen and develop China-DPRK friendship, no matter how the world situation may change in the future.

KCNA Reports U.S.-ROK 12 Apr 'Bombing Exercise'

SK1404095693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors staged a joint air-to-ground strike exercise Monday in the skies above Yongwol, Hoengsong and Umsong, South Korea, with the mobilization of some 300 fighters based in Japan, the Pacific and South Korea, military sources said.

Within the framework of this war exercise, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets held a bombing exercise against the North in the skies above Wonju, Tanyang and Yoju and an operation for air control in the skies above Anmyon Island, Samchok and Umsong.

The U.S. imperialists had committed aerial espionage on the whole of the northern half of Korea in the skies above the Military Demarcation Line every day up to April 12 since the "Team Spirit 93" joint military maneuvers.

The warplanes involved in the air war exercises against the North Monday totalled more than 600.

Cambodia's Sihanouk Arrives in Pyongyang 14 Apr

SK1404114493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Supreme National Council (SNC), arrived here today by special plane for an official goodwill visit to Korea at the invitation of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Arriving together with the Samdech and Madame were Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Cambodia Kong Sam-ol, Supreme Advisor to the Head of the State of Cambodia and the Secretariat of the Chairman of the SNC Um Manorin and his wife, Him Chhem, vice-minister of culture of the State of Cambodia and other suite members.

Seen at the airport were a portrait of President Kim Il-song and a portrait of His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and sloganboards reading "Long Live the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song!", "Long Live Respected His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of the State of Cambodia and chairman of the Supreme National Council!", "Warm Welcome to H.R.H. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia and Chairman of the Supreme National Council!" and "Long Live Indestructible Friendship and Solidarity Between the Korean and Cambodian Peoples!"

The guests were met at the airport by Vice President Yi Chong-ok, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, officials concerned and Korean Ambassador to the SNC Kim Hyong-yul.

Foreign diplomatic envoys to Korea were also present at the airport.

Thousands of Pyongyangites warmly welcomed the Samdech at the airport, waving flags of the two countries, bunches of flowers, etc. and shouting "Welcome to Sihanouk" and "Friendship and Solidarity".

More than 100,000 people of the capital offered warm welcome to the friendly envoy of the Cambodian people on the route from the entrance of Yonmot-tong to Kumsong Street through Yonghung intersection.

Editorials Welcome Visit

SK1404114693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—Papers here today warmly welcome His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia, who is coming to Korea to congratulate the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on his 81st birthday.

NODONG SINMUN in an editorial says:

The Korea visit of respected His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk is an expression of his ever-deepening boundless respect for and undisputed trust in the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. It marks another important milestone in developing the traditional ties of friendship between the two countries and two peoples of Korea and Cambodia to a new, higher stage. It is a powerful encouragement to our people who are making confidently an energetic advance in socialist construction, smashing the vicious anti-DPRK manoeuvrings of the imperialists with the might of single-hearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses.

The Korean people extend strong support and solidarity to the struggle of the Cambodian people for peace and stability of the country and building of a unified and prosperous new Cambodia and are rejoiced over their achievements as over their own.

H.R.H. Samdech is a distinguished patriot, hero of the nation, outstanding leader produced by the Khmer nation. And he is a statesman enjoying a high reputation in the international arena.

The Korean people are glad over the acceleration of the peace process in Cambodia by his enthusiastic and experienced political ability and are convinced that a good fruition will be borne in the struggle of the Cambodian people to build a non-aligned and neutral new Cambodia, reunified and independent.

MINJU CHOSON in an editorial notes that it accords with the desire and purpose of the Cambodian people and contributes to the cause of world peace as well to accelerate reconstruction and the peace process and achieve national reconciliation and unity in Cambodia.

Cuba Issues Statement on Korean Peninsula Situation

SK1304115393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Havana, April 12 [date as received] (KCNA)—The Foreign Ministry of Cuba in a statement on April 11 said that recent remarks of U.S. Congressmen openly stressing the "need" of a limited military action against nuclear facilities of the DPRK are causing apprehensions.

The use of strength threatening the DPRK can never be justified legally or morally, the statement noted, and went on:

The Foreign Ministry of Cuba considers that all attempts to put massive pressure and control the situation in an unfit and superficial way may bring grave consequences and, accordingly, it holds that such development must be prevented by all means and the situation must not be pushed to an irretrievable extent.

The U.N. Security Council, far from contributing to finding a solution acceptable to all, is being embroiled in the move for pressure aggravating the situation created in the Korean peninsula from more than 40 years ago. It must not do so.

It is clear that the U.S. troops stationed in the southern part of the Korean peninsula are a permanent root cause of the tension in this region and they have nuclear weapons.

The Foreign Ministry of Cuba, taking the gravity of the situation into consideration, hopes that wisdom, responsibility, reasonableness, justice and negotiation will overwhelm the military threat which has negative influence on world peace and security, and the distortion and manipulation of the case.

Cuban Delegation Continues Visit to Pyongyang

Received by Kim Il-song

SK1304121093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1106 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received Tuesday the delegation of the Ministry of Culture of Cuba headed by Minister Armando Hart Davalos participating in the 11th April spring friendship art festival.

Present on the occasion were Chang Chol, vice-premier and minister of culture and art, Song Won-ho, vice-minister of foreign affairs, Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador to Korea.

The head of the delegation warmly congratulated President Kim Il-song on his birthday and wished him good health and long life.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and had a talk with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Presents Gift for Kim Il-song

SK1304130793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1109 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift from Cuban Minister of Culture Armando Hart Davalos who is visiting Korea at the head of a delegation of the ministry.

The gift was handed to an official concerned.

Presents Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK1304131193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1110 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from Cuban Minister of Culture Armando Hart Davalos who is visiting Korea at the head of a delegation of the ministry.

The gift was handed to an official concerned.

Choe Tae-pok Meets Pro-Reunification Japanese Groups

SK1404100693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea, met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the Japan Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification led by Hiroshi Wakabayashi, vice-president of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea and secretary general of the Japan Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, Tuesday.

Present on the occasion was vice-chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries O Mun-han.

Koreans in Japan Support 10-Point Unity Program

OW1404045193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1501 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 (KNS-KCNA)—A meeting of Korean residents in Japan supporting the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" drafted by the Great Leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song was held in Tokyo Monday [12 April].

Addressing the meeting So Man-sul, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon), pointed out that the 10-point programme of great national unity drafted by the respected leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song is a patriotic programme for the country and the nation permeated with patriotism and the spirit of national independence, a great charter common to the nation and a great political programme for breaking through the grim difficulties with united efforts of the nation and achieving the peace and unification of the country. He warmly hailed and supported it in the name of the entire Chongryon officials and the 700,000 Korean residents in Japan. He said the election of the Dear Leader Marshal Kim Chong-il as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the Supreme People's Assembly was an expression of the undisputed trust in and reverence for the sagacious leader Comrade Kim Chong-il among the entire Korean people at home and overseas and another auspicious event of the nation which creditably guarantees the victory of the cause of chuche. He extended highest glory and warmest congratulations to him representing the deepest reverence of the entire Chongryon officials and the Korean residents in Japan.

He said: "The 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation put forward by the respected leader is, indeed, a banner of reconciliation and unity calling the entire fellow countrymen in the North, South and overseas to patriotism and reunification and a torch of patriotism which enables the Korean nation itself to tide over all trials and difficulties and shape its destiny," he stressed, and added: "The historic 10-point programme consummates the idea of the respected leader on great national unity and the precious success and experience achieved by him in the struggle to carry it into practice," he said adding: "His ideas of love for the nation and great national unity are made to shine brighter by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il today." Speeches were made at the meeting. A letter to the Great Leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song and a letter to the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK were adopted at the meeting.

The letter to the Standing Committee of the SPA states that the entire Koreans in Japan would turn out resolutely in carrying out the historic 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation in hearty response to the great leader's motto of unity, reunification and patriotism: "Those with strength devoting energy, those with knowledge giving knowledge and those with money donating money, all should make tangible contributions to the reunification of the country and the development and prosperity of a reunified land and thus put an end to the national division and display the dignity and honour of the reunified 70 million fellow countrymen to the world."

"We will vigorously advance in close unity with the entire fellow countrymen to build a pan-national unified state representing all the members of the nation of various strata in the North, South and overseas, a nonfederal state embodying the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity and a non-aligned neutral state independent and peaceful," says the letter.

Commentary Criticizes 'Neo-Nazi Campaign' in Japan

SK1404112693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The neo-Nazi "campaign" calling the ghost of Hitler, which is getting hysterical in Japan these days, cannot be construed otherwise than having a thread of connection with the intention of the Japanese authorities to revive militarism, says MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today.

In Tokyo and Saitama Prefecture a few days ago, groups styling themselves "National Socialist Union" pasted up several thousand copies of leaflets bearing the swastika and "agitating" "expulsion of foreigners" on buildings and in parks and scattered them at crowded places, ripping and tearing about on the streets.

The campaign of these groups suggest that political reaction and fascistization have gone to extremes in Japan, causing deep public concern at home and abroad, the news analyst says, and goes on:

The open political campaign to revive the ghost of Hitler, the incarnation of human butchery, in Japan is a very noteworthy move.

The Japanese authorities are, in fact, putting spurs on the revival of militarism, seeking overseas aggrandizement. What they seek in this is to send young and middle-aged Japanese people overseas for aggression at an accelerated pace.

All the more grave is that the Japanese reactionaries are trying to lay the blame for the present economic catastrophe and political crisis of Japan at the door of foreigners and find an excuse for their expulsion.

The end of those who attempt to attain Japan's "prosperity" through aggression and massacre of other nations cannot differ from the wretched lot of Hitler and Tojo.

Dailies Express 'Welcome' to Syrian Delegation

SK1404062993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0512 GMT 14 Apr 93

["Friendship Envoy From Syria"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today warmly welcome a delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic headed by Muhammad Zuhyar Mashariqah, vice-president and vice-chairman of the National Progressive Front of Syria, coming here to congratulate the great leader President Kim Il-song on his 81st birthday.

The visit of the delegation to our country is an expression of the traditional friendship and trust between the Korean and the Syrian Arab people and support and solidarity to the just cause of our people, a NODONG SINMUN editorial article says, and continues:

The Syrian Arab people have made great successes in their efforts to defend the sovereignty of the country, achieve national unity and build a new life under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party headed by His Excellency President Hafiz Al-Asad.

They are now striving to rejuvenate the economy and increase the defence capability with the goal of building a united and prosperous new society under the slogan of "reunification, freedom and socialism".

The Syrian Government and people are making strenuous efforts to retake the occupied Arab land and seek a fair solution of the Middle East problem. The Syrian Arab people are confidently advancing along the road of building an independent new society chosen by them, not bowing to the imperialists' pressure.

The Korean people sincerely rejoice at the successes gained by the Syrian people in the building of a new society and extend firm solidarity to their just cause of achieving the national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Korea-Syria friendship is solid and indestructible as it is based on the intimacy between the great leader of our people Comrade Kim Il-song and respected His Excellency President Hafiz Al-Asad.

The Korea visit of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic will contribute to newly developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples of Korea and Syria.

SPA Group Meets Visiting Pakistani Parliamentarians

SK1404095993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—Talks between the delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK and the parliamentary delegation of Pakistan were held at the Mansudae Assembly hall Tuesday.

Present at the talks on the DPRK side were chairman of the SPA Yang Hyong-sop, member of the standing committee of the SPA Yu Ho-chun, deputy to the SPA Yu Kyu-tong and other officials concerned.

Present on the opposite side were the members of the delegation led by chairman of the senate Waseem Sajad and charge d'affaires ad interim of the Pakistani embassy here Shafgat Ali Cheema.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Kim Il-song Receives Group

SK1404114893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1059 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan led by chairman of the Senate Waseem Sajad on a visit to Korea.

Present on the occasion were chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop, vice-minister of foreign affairs Cho Kyu-il and charge d'affaires ad interim of the Pakistani Embassy in Pyongyang Shafgat Ali Cheema.

The head of the delegation warmly congratulated President Kim Il-song on his birthday and wished him longevity in good health.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Kim Yong-nam Greets Jamaican Foreign Minister

SK1304121693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1054 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Paul Robertson upon his appointment as minister for foreign affairs and foreign trade of Jamaica.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will continue to develop favorably in conformity with the idea of independence, peace and friendship, the message wished him success in his responsible work.

Diplomatic Corps Visit Revolutionary School

SK1304120093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The diplomatic corps here visited the Mangyongdae revolutionary school Monday [12 April] on the threshold of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

While going round the lecture and experimental rooms, the guests were briefed on the history of the school built by the great leader for bereaved children of revolutionaries.

After visiting the school, Syrian Ambassador Yasir Farah, on behalf of the corps, said he had been deeply impressed by the modern school and bereaved [as received] children growing as reserves of the revolution. He expressed the belief that the graduates from the school would work well for the country and the people and for the country's reunification, united around the party and the leader in one mind.

KCNA Notes Institution of Kim Il-song Prize

SK1404095593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0517 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—Prominent political, public and academic figures of the world formed the international Kim Il-song Prize Council on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song, a report from New Delhi said.

The council adopted a decision on instituting International Kim Il-song Prize and the rules of its conferment.

The decision dated April 13 notes that respected Comrade Kim Il-song made an undying contribution to the accomplishment of mankind's common cause of anti-imperialism and independence by strengthening friendship and unity with the progressive people of the world who aspire after independence and love peace on the basis of the idea of independence, peace and friendship. In order to hand down his exploits forever, the decision said, International Kim Il-song Prize was instituted and the rules of its conferment endorsed. The rules say the prize shall be awarded to prominent political and public figures and adherents to President Kim Il-song's chuche idea who, espousing this idea, actively work to apply it and make a distinguished contribution to independence and peace throughout the world, one person every year on the occasion of President Kim Il-song's birthday, April 15, according to the decision of the council.

The prize winners will receive a diploma, a gold medal and a souvenir (made of rare metal), according to the rules.

The announcement of the decision by the council says that the institution of International Kim Il-song Prize is an expression of the unanimous desire and will of the progressive people and students of the chuche idea of the world to hand down through generations to come the immortal exploits of the respected leader his excellency President Kim Il-song who is the most prominent thinker and theoretician of the present times and has made a distinguished contribution to world peace and mankind's cause of independence.

'Draft' of DPRK Underground Resources Law Issued

SK1304024493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1000 GMT 8 Apr 93

["Draft" of the DPRK Underground Resources Law read by Hong Song-nam, deputy to the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, at the second-day afternoon meeting of the Fifth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly held on 8 April in the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang—recorded]

[Text] Chapter 1. The Basis of the Underground Resources Law

Article 1. The DPRK Underground Resources Law shall establish discipline and order in exploring, developing, and utilizing underground resources to contribute to accelerating socialist economic construction and improving people's lives.

Article 2. Underground resources include metallic, nonmetallic, and combustible mineral resources, subterranean heat, underground water, and mineral springs.

Only the state owns underground resources in the DPRK.

Article 3. The exploration of underground resources is an important work to increasing the country's wealth. The state must carry out chuche-oriented exploration of underground resources, modernization of exploration, and application of science to exploration and try to find more underground resources more rapidly.

Article 4. Vigorously carrying out the work of developing underground resources is a necessary demand for strengthening the basis of the self-reliant national economy. The state must concentrate its investments in developing underground resources and develop underground resources in a far-sighted manner.

Article 5. Underground resources are valuable assets for the country's prosperity and people's happiness. The state must establish order in utilizing underground resources and strengthen scientific and technological research to efficiently utilize underground resources in a unified manner.

Article 6. Positively protecting underground resources is the noble duty of government offices, enterprises, organizations, and citizens. The state must strengthen education in socialism and patriotism to ensure that all the people, masters, participate in the work of protecting underground resources.

Article 7. The state must establish an orderly work system in the exploration, development, and utilization of underground resources and strengthen its investments in and control on this sector.

Article 8. The state must develop exchange and cooperation with various countries of the world in the exploration, development, and utilization of underground resources.

Chapter 2. The Exploration of Underground Resources

Article 9. Giving top priority to the exploration of underground resources over mining is a basic guarantee for the development of the people's economy. Government offices and enterprises in charge of the exploration of underground resources must give top priority to the exploration of underground resources over mining and explore them in a planned way.

Article 10. State planning offices must map out plans for the exploration of underground resources based on demand for underground resources in the people's economy and geographical conditions. If new geographical conditions are found, they must change plans for the exploration of underground resources accordingly.

Article 11. The exploration of underground resources is divided into the exploration for the present purpose and the exploration for the future. Government offices and enterprises in charge of the exploration of underground resources must correctly conduct explorations for present and future purposes to increase the secured deposits in coal mines and ore mines, build candidate sites of development, and comprehensively explore underground resources in an area for exploration.

Article 12. Government offices and enterprises in charge of the exploration of underground resources must map out plans for the exploration of underground resources. Government offices and enterprises in charge of the exploration of underground resources must not conduct non-productive exploration and exploration for a single mineral resource [hottamsawa tandoktamsa] and map out plans for each stage of exploration to ensure that all underground resources be found.

Plans for an office mapped out for exploration must win approval from its supervisory office.

Article 13. Government offices and enterprises in charge of the exploration of underground resources must conduct the exploration of underground resources according to the plans and fill drilling rigs, [words indistinct], and exploratory wells for actual excavation and [word indistinct].

Article 14. Government offices and enterprises in charge of the exploration of underground resources must improve exploration methods, increase the speed and efficiency of exploration, and thus positively explore underground resources that are scarce or have not yet been found in our country.

Article 15. The state underground resources development office must decide on standards in calculating deposits of underground resources. The state underground resources development office must change standards in calculating deposits of underground resources depending on changes in deposits of underground resources or scientific and technological development.

Article 16. Government offices and enterprises in charge of the exploration of underground resources must correctly calculate the deposits of underground resources based on data of exploration. The pertinent central office and the state underground resources development office must examine the calculated deposits of underground resources.

Article 17. The examined and approved deposits of underground resources must be registered with the state underground resources development office. Deposits of underground resources that are not registered with state underground resources development office cannot be recognized as results of exploration and cannot be [word indistinct] for development.

Article 18. The state underground resources development office must regularly examine the deposits of underground resources and correctly register any changes in the deposits of underground resources.

Chapter 3. The Development of Underground Resources

Article 19. The development of underground resources is [word indistinct] for normalizing production in various fields of the people's economy.

Government offices, enterprises, and organizations in charge of the exploration of underground resources must introduce large-size, modern, and high-speed extraction facilities, diversify means of transportation, give priority to tunneling, adopt efficient mining procedures to increase ore production.

Article 20. The state underground resources development office shall give permission for the development of underground resources. Government offices, enterprises, and organizations that want to develop underground resources must hand in letters of application for the development of underground resources to the state underground resources development office. The state underground resources development office must give permission for the development of underground resources after examining the purpose and scale of the development, deposits, and priorities.

Article 21. The national land management office, agricultural guidance office, and construction guidance office must give permission for the use of forests and agricultural land—pointed out in letters of application for the development of underground resources—according to procedures for permission for the use of land and designate sites for the development of underground resources.

They must not give permission for the use of land to government offices, enterprises, and organizations that have no (?license) for the development of underground resources and must not designate sites for them.

Article 22: The pertinent design [solgye] organizations and other organizations and enterprises related to developing underground resources shall draw up a design for developing underground resources. The pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations related with development of underground resources shall draw up a design for developing underground resources in a bid to ensure high extracting rate and production efficiency.

Once drawn up, the design shall be approved by the pertinent divisions and construction supervisory organizations.

Article 23: The development of underground resources shall be promoted according to a design for developing underground resources. Organizations and enterprises related with the development of underground resources shall enhance the efficiency of investment by following the demand of a design for developing underground resources.

Article 24: The pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations related with the development of underground resources shall make a basic plan for the technology of developing underground resources. The pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations related to development of underground resources shall make an accurate plan for technology of developing underground resources, [words indistinct].

Article 25: The pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations related with the development of underground resources shall reasonably command a mining organization to extract [words indistinct]. The act of extracting only [word indistinct], which is easy to exploit, shall not be allowed.

Article 26: The pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations related with the development of underground resources shall differentiate underground resources which cannot immediately be exploited due to unfavorable conditions from [words indistinct]. When exploiting conditions become favorable, they shall extract underground resources.

Article 27. When they plan to close coal mines, mines, and pits, the pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations related with the development of underground resources shall exploit possible underground resources by using the pits. They shall tangibly record the specific condition of the exploiting sites.

Without approval from a state underground resources development office, coal mines, mines, and pits cannot be closed.

Article 28: The pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations related with the development of underground resources shall thoroughly follow technical and safety regulations. Thus they shall prevent accidents and natural disasters.

Article 29: The pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations related with the development of underground resources shall accurately grasp and record changes in the amount of underground resource deposits in the course of extracting them. Without approval from the state underground resources development office, the registered underground resource deposits cannot be mined.

Article 30: The pertinent organizations and enterprises shall positively develop the heat of the earth, underground waters, and mineral waters needed for economic development and people's life.

Article 31: Organizations and enterprises which exploit underground resources shall not commit acts of destroying land, nature, people's living environment, and the ecological environment of animals and plants in the course of exploiting underground resources.

Article 32: Organizations and enterprises which plan to construct roads, railways, plants, and reservoirs in areas where underground resources are to be exploited, shall require approval from the state underground resources development office.

Article 33: If they find new underground resources, special geological conditions, rare minerals, or [word indistinct] in the course of exploiting underground resources, the pertinent organizations and enterprises shall take steps to preserve them and notify concerned organizations of them.

Chapter 4: Use of Underground Resources

Article 34: Efficiently using underground resources is a major way to meet the national economy's growing needs for raw materials and fuels. The pertinent organizations and enterprises shall positively preserve underground resources and enhance the rate of using underground resources.

Article 35: The pertinent organizations and enterprises shall build [words indistinct], modern warehouses, and coal depots to fully house mineral resources, such as coals, ores, and crude oil.

Article 36: Railway-transportation organizations and other pertinent organizations and enterprises shall steadily repair and supplement transportation means and command transportation organizations. They shall prevent mineral resources from being lost in the course of its transportation.

Article 37: The pertinent government offices, enterprises, and organizations shall abide by technical regulations and standard operating regulations in processing mineral resources, including ore dressing and smeltery. They shall ensure an assigned [word indistinct] norm. Work not ensuring the completion of assigned [word indistinct] norm shall not be done.

Article 38: The pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations shall build production technological process to process mineral resources in a comprehensive way. Thus, they shall (?screen) the major ingredients and minor ingredients of the mineral resources. When unable to (?screen) the ingredients in [words indistinct], they shall not throw them away but store them.

Article 39: The pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations shall positively use mineral resources, which are scarce or have not yet been found in our country, as fuel and raw material of a substitute mineral.

Article 40: If they plan to export [word indistinct], ores, and other minerals to other countries, the pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations shall get approval from a relevant organization.

Article 41: Organizations and enterprises, which manage mineral spring, shall properly preserve the areas of mineral spring. They shall efficiently use mineral waters and hot springs. Without approval from the organization in charge of managing mineral springs, the work of exploiting and developing mineral resources and other construction work cannot be done around the areas of preserving mineral springs.

Article 42: The pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations use underground resources only for the things which the state allows.

Chapter 5 Guidance and Control of Exploiting, Developing, and Using Underground Resources

Article 43: The pertinent central organization shall guide exploitation, development, and use of underground resources, under the leadership of the Administration Council. The pertinent central organization shall strengthen guidance of exploitation, development, use of underground resources in accordance with the development of the national economy.

Article 44: The state underground resources development office shall guide the work of preserving and managing underground resources in an unified way. The state underground resources development office shall set up a system to preserve underground resources. It shall lead the pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations to positively preserve underground resources and to responsibly manage underground resources.

Article 45: The state shall establish social traits to positively help the sectors exploit and develop underground resources and shall preferentially treat the working people of the sectors.

Article 46: The state planning organizations, labor administrative organizations, material supply organizations, and finance management organizations shall give priority to supplying labor, facilities, equipment, and funds needed for exploiting and developing underground resources. Labor, facilities, equipment, and funds needed for exploiting and developing underground resources cannot be used for other purpose.

Article 47: Science research organizations and education organizations shall strengthen scientific research work to enhance the sectors of exploiting, developing, and using underground resources on to a new scientific and technological level. They shall bring up able technicians and exports.

Article 48: An organization supervising underground resources and the pertinent supervision-control organizations shall supervise and control the exploitation, development, and use of underground resources. An organization supervising underground resources and the pertinent supervision-control organizations shall steadily supervise and control the status of exploiting, developing, and using underground resources.

Article 49: In case underground resources are developed without permission and in case the [word indistinct] demand for developing underground resources is violated, the development shall be stopped and the approval for developing underground resources shall be canceled. The underground resources illegally extracted shall be confiscated.

Article 50: In case the exploitation and extraction of underground resources are conducted at random; the [word indistinct] norm is not ensured; and underground resources and funds are dissipated by violating the regulations about exploiting underground resources, corresponding loss shall be compensated for.

Article 51: Responsible functionaries of the pertinent government office, enterprises, and organizations, who do a grave damage to the state by violating the regulations about underground resources, shall be held liable for their administrative and criminal responsibilities.

Groups Support Kim Il-song's 10-Point Program

SKNDF Supports Program

SK1304115593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) called on the whole nation to turn out in a nationwide struggle in close unity to establish a pan-national unified state, independent, peaceful and neutral, regarding the ten-point programme of great unity of the whole nation as the common programme of the nation, reported radio Voice of National Salvation.

In a statement supporting the "ten-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" worked out by the great leader President Kim Il-song, the Hanminjon Central Committee said it was an important measure to tide over the grim difficulties facing the nation and open the way out for the nation together.

"For the great unity of the whole nation and the reunification of the country, Hanminjon and patriotic people of all walks of life will turn out more undauntedly in the national liberation struggle to put an end to the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule and the rulers' flunkeyist acts and to get South Korea freed from dependence upon outside forces," it noted, and urged:

"The U.S. imperialists must withdraw their aggressor troops and nuclear weapons from this land and finally stop the South Korea-U.S. joint military exercises and the present 'regime' styling itself a 'civilian government' must renounce the policy of depending on outside forces."

KSDP Issues Statement on Program

SK1404112493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongang, April 14 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party [KSDP] on April 13 published a statement supporting the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" drafted by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

"The new programme of great unity of the whole nation put forward by President Kim Il-song is a great patriotic programme of reunification which inspires the 70 million fellow countrymen with the conviction and hope for the future to build a prosperous reunified country by putting a period to the tragedy of national division and national confrontation and a common action programme of the nation indicating a short cut to the restoration of the true original looks of one country and one nation," the statement says, and continues:

"Indeed, the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation which fully consummates the general purpose and ideological basis of great national unity and its principle and way, is throwing its rays as a bright beacon which makes it possible to rally the entire fellow countrymen for reconciliation, unity and reunification and truly shape the destiny of the nation with its strength and wisdom.

"Considering that it is the greatest love for the country and the nation at present to support and carry into practice the new programme of great unity of the whole nation advanced by the respected leader President Kim Il-song.

"The Korean Social Democratic Party and all its members will devote all their efforts, sincerity and enthusiasm to making the programme bear a good fruit.

"The C.C., the KSDP, availing itself of this opportunity, expresses the hope that all the political parties, organizations, politicians and personages of various circles in South Korea, if they really value the national idea of patriotism and are faithful to it, will become ardent supporters and active practicians of the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation and join in the grand march of the 70 million fellow countrymen for reunification in the 90s'".

National Celebration of Kim Il-song Birthday Held

SK1404120493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1113 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—A national celebration of the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was held with a large attendance at the February 8 House of Culture today.

Placed on the background of the platform were a portrait of Comrade Kim Il-song flanked on either side by the slogans "Long Live the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song!" and "Long Live the Glorious Workers' Party of Korea!"

Hung on the walls were also slogans reading "Let Us Become The Lifeguard and Death-defying Corps Intensely Loyal to the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the Glorious Party!" "Long Live the Great Juche Idea!" and "Let the Whole Party, All People and Entire Army Get United in One Mind and Carry the Cause of Socialism to Accomplishment!"

Attending the meeting were working people of various strata, delegations, home-visiting groups of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) including the April 15 congratulatory group of Korean residents in Japan, and Korean personages from abroad.

The platform was taken by O Chin-u, member of the presidium of the political bureau of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of People's Armed Forces, premier of the Administration Council Kang Song-san and Vice-president Pak Song-chol who are politburo members of the C.C., WPK and other senior party and government officials.

Yi Chin-kyu, first vice-chairman of the central standing committee of Chongnyon, leading the April 15 congratulatory group of Korean residents in Japan and Choe Hong-hui, president of the International Taekwon-do Federation, were in the platform party.

A report was delivered by premier Kang Song-san at the meeting.

First vice-chairman Yi Chin-kyu made a congratulatory speech.

Yi Chong-ok at Symposium on Birthday

SK1304115893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—A national symposium took place here Monday on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Present at the symposium were Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president of the DPRK, Kim Ki-nam, secretary of the C.C., WPK and others.

Speakers at the symposium said the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a great thinker and theoretician who founded the chuche idea, the most perfect revolutionary idea of the working class representing the present times and developed and completed the socialist idea from a new angle on the basis of it.

They explained that the great leader founded the chuche idea long ago and, on the basis of it, formulated a new political conception consummating in an allround way the principles, systems and mode of genuine politics centred on the masses, brilliantly applied the chuche-based idea of politics, the key point of which is politics of independence, democracy, unity and human virtues, with his iron will, matchless grit and rare leadership ability, thus building a powerful anthropocentric socialism in this land.

Through the reality of their country in which socialism is making a long drive even under the grim situation in which it is exposed to pressure, blockade, threat and blackmail from the U.S.-led imperialist allied forces, the Korean people cherish it as their unshakable conviction that their socialist cause is invincible as long as they are under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, they stressed.

Ministry Banquet Marks Birthday

SK1404102693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The Foreign Ministry arranged a banquet at the People's Palace of Culture Tuesday on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Addressing the banquet, Kim Yong-nam, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister, said the birth of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was a great fortune that heralded the liberation of the country and the rebirth of the nation and a great auspicious event which brought about a fundamental change in shaping the destiny of the Korean people.

"The whole course of the revolutionary activities of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a brilliant chronicle of a gigantic struggle and creation in which he has devoted his all to the liberation of the country and the prosperity of the nation, to the freedom and happiness of the people," he said, and added:

"He founded the chuche idea to provide the masses of people with a correct guiding idea, an invincible ideological and theoretical weapon with which to shape their destinies, defeated two imperialisms in one generation and has built our country into a socialist power, independent, self-sustaining and self-reliant in national defence.

"Our party's revolutionary cause of chuche is dynamically advancing along the road of victory under the tested leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and the future of our party and people is bright."

Syrian Ambassador to Korea Yasir Farah, doyen of the diplomatic corps here, in his speech wholeheartedly wished a long life in good health to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on his 81st birthday on behalf of the resident diplomatic representatives in Pyongyang.

Noting that the birth of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was an important event in the history of the life of the Korean people and time-honoured Korea, he said the great leader fought from his childhood to free his country from the Japanese aggressors and achieve national sovereignty, independence, and the dignity of the Korean nation.

He said "the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for Reunification of the country" set forth by the great leader is a most realistic and constructive proposal for Korea's reunification, he said, urging the South Korean authorities to accept the reunification programme which can end the tragedy of division.

He stressed that the "special inspection" problem must be settled through dialogue and peaceful manner, adding: "When the direct dialogue between Pyongyang and Washington is put into practice, we are sure that the Korean peninsula will become a peaceful and nuclear free zone."

They saw the 11th part of the multi-part feature film "the nation and destiny" prior to the banquet.

Kim Il-song Gives 'On-the-Spot-Guidance'

OW1404051793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1522 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The Great Leader President Kim Il-song, whose lifelong maxim is to believe in the people as in heaven, has covered millions of miles in giving on-the-spot guidance to the people. Last year in his advanced age of eighty he travelled thousands of miles from Pyongyang to Musan County, North Hamgyong Province in the northern tip of the country, and to Nampho and to Kaesong, a city adjacent to the military demarcation line, guiding work in different sectors of the national economy on the spot. Recently, he called consultative meetings of agricultural workers in different districts and officials concerned with agriculture on several occasions and set forth highly important tasks to effect a new upswing in production in the agricultural domain.

The Dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has said: "The leader has covered millions of miles in giving his on-the-spot guidance, and in the course of this he has put forward lines and policies reflecting the aspirations and will of the popular masses, and encouraged them to implement them, thus leading our revolution into an uninterrupted upsurge."

Basing himself on a comprehensive analysis and grasp of the aspirations and demand of the popular masses and the reality through his on-the-spot guidance, the Great Leader shaped lines and policies of the Workers' Party of Korea and organized and directed their implementation, leading the revolution and construction to victory.

When working out the historical agrarian reform law to realize the age-old desire of peasants for land shortly after the liberation of the country, he called at rural villages including those in Kangdong County to acquaint himself with their conditions and consummated the will of peasants by law.

In April 1954 after the war, he saw to it that an agricultural cooperative was organized on an experimental basis in Samjong-i, Junghwa County, and visited it on several occasions leading them to display the superiority and vitality of the cooperative economy.

The Chongsan-ri spirit and Chongsan-i method, the communistic idea and method of guidance of the masses, and the Taean work system, the superior form of economic management of a Korean style, and the new agricultural guidance system established in the DPRK were also planned and completed by the Great Leader in the course of his on-the-spot guidance to factories and rural villages. In February 1960 when he visited Chongsan-i, he spent a fortnight with the peasants there, chatting with them attending a party cell meeting and a village party membership meeting, thus bringing about a new change in party work.

He gave on-the-spot guidance to industrial establishments and cooperative farms on more than 3,000 occasions in a little more than 14 years from right after the liberation till he created the Chongsan-ri spirit and Chongsan-ri method.

In days of his on-the-spot guidance he initiated the general ideological mobilization movement for nation building, the Chollima movement and other mass movements and expedited socialist construction at an extraordinarily high speed by bringing into play the revolutionary enthusiasm and creative talent of the masses including workers, peasants and working intellectuals.

New innovations were effected in different branches of the national economy in the heat of the Chollima movement. The workers of Kangson produced 120,000 tons of steel from a blooming mill with an annual rated capacity of 60,000 tons, and those at Kim Chaek iron and steel works put out 270,000 tons of pig iron from a blast furnace with a rated capacity of 190,000 tons.

In March 1959 he gave on-the-spot guidance to the Juul flax mill [(word indistinct] March 13 factory) and ensured that a machine tool-begets-machine-tool movement was launched across the country by actively following the example of the workers there who produced modern machine tools with an old lathe.

As a result, over 13,000 more machine tools were produced than the state plan a year in the machine-building industry.

The Korean people carried out the historical task of socialist industrialization in 14 years (1957-70) on this course.

The Great Leader gave on-the-spot guidance in different domains of the national economy on more than 1,500 occasions from 1960 to 1970.

Saying he must go wherever people live, he showed deep concern for the living of the peasants in mountainous areas, crossing the Kwanmo Mountain peak 2,000 metres above the sea level, the Huchi peak 1,200 metres above, and steep ranges of the Maedok peak and the Paekmu plateau.

He went to Unha-ri in Yangdok County, a remote mountainous village, in September 1947 and taught that those in mountainous areas should make the most of mountains. In April, 1961, during his on-the-spot guidance to Pukchong County, he opened a broad avenue for the development of the nation's [word indistinct].

In the course of his on-the-spot guidance he showed paternal loving care for the people; he would drop in at shops to acquaint himself with the quality and variety of consumer goods, and call at workers' hostels to taste even meals for workers.

He did not cease his on-the-spot guidance even on national off-days and red-letter days.

On the night of July 28, 1953, when the whole country was overflowing with joy over the victory in the war and the nocturnal sky of Pyongyang was covered with firecrackers, he was on the road of his on-the-spot guidance. On his birthday one year, when he should have enjoyed blessings of all the people, he spent the whole day on a field pass in the suburbs of Pyongyang, talking to the agricultural workers there about realizing the comprehensive mechanization of agriculture and about supplying more meat to the Pyongyang citizens.

He gave on-the-spot guidance to the Taean heavy machine complex on the founding anniversary of the republic in 1972.

Indeed, millions of miles covered by President Kim Il-song in giving his on-the-spot guidance are immortal courses in which he has built a socialist power, independent, self-supporting and self-reliant in national defence, and brought high dignity and boundless happiness to the Korean people.

Seminar Discusses Kim Il-song Work on Upholding Chuche

SK1404095293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—A seminar on the great leader President Kim Il-song's classical work "Young People Must Honourably Accomplish the Revolutionary Cause of Chuche Upholding the Leadership of the Party" was held here Monday.

The work published on February 22, 1993 is a letter to the 8th Congress of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea.

In the work, President Kim Il-song noted with high appreciation that the young Koreans had creditably fulfilled their role as the advance guard of the revolution and made an undying contribution to defending and advancing our revolutionary cause since its start up to now. He clarified the great role of the young people in defending the cause of our party and comprehensively indicated in a deep-going manner the tasks to carry forward the socialist cause successfully.

Those who took the floor at the seminar said it is an immortal work which comprehensively consummates his idea, theory and experience in the youth movement and a militant banner which powerfully encourages the youth league organizations and young people in the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche.

DPRK Decree Awards Yi In-mo 'Kim Il-song Order'

SK1404061093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The DPRK Central People's Committee published a decree dated April 13 on awarding Kim Il-song order to Yi In-mo.

The decree says the DPRK Central People's Committee is awarding Kim Il-song Order to Comrade Yi In-mo in high appreciation of the exploits of the former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, a proud son of the motherland who performed a heroic feat in the great fatherland liberation war, and the incarnation of faith and will who fought it out and won, true to his pledge of loyalty to the party and the leader, to the motherland and the people, not yielding to torture and bestial persecution in prison for 34 years after he was arrested by the enemy.

Officials Laud Examples of Army-People Unity

OW1404052893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The traditional traits of unity between the Army and the people are fully displayed in Korea where the Army and the people, united around the party and the leader, are bolstering up the socialist motherland.

Officials of commissions and ministries of the Administration Council including the State Commission of Materials Supply, the Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry, the Ministry of the Metal Industry and the Ministry of the Mining Industry, central organs and local party, administrative and economic organs and the Sangwon cement complex, the Samsok garment factory and other industrial establishments and many working people recently visited units of the Korean People's Army [KPA], handed them comfort materials, silk banners and hanging-scrolls they had prepared with sincerity and informed them of news of the rear.

The visitors congratulated the soldiers on their successful combat and political training and encouraged them, deepening the feelings of affinity between the Army and the people.

Medical workers of Tokchon City People's Hospital No. 2 treated Kim Kuk-hyon, an officer of the KPA who had been wounded while on military mission and devoted all their sincerity to his recovery, performing skin grafting operations and giving blood transfusion several times.

The Dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the above-mentioned units and working people for the display of beautiful traits of Army-people unity.

KCNA Reviews 13 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK1304125493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-illustrated report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the government delegation of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea led by Prime Minister Silvestre Siale Vileka.

Papers also carry a photo-accompanied report that President Kim Il-song received the head of the Russian folk song and dance ensemble, and was presented with a gift by her.

NODONG SINMUN carries messages sent by President Kim Il-song to foreign party leaders in reply to their solidarity messages denouncing the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises of the U.S. and South Korean authorities and the clamor for a "special inspection" of the DPRK and supporting the just cause of the Korean people.

Papers inform the readers that "With the Century", reminiscences of President Kim Il-song, has been reported in various countries and a brief history of his revolutionary activities was carried by Indian publications.

Papers carry news that President Kim Il-song received messages from the heads of state of Ghana, Mauritius, Sahara, Iran and Nepal in reply to his messages of greetings on their national day and the birthday of the Nepalese king.

Carried in papers are accounts of mass meetings held in provinces tm support and implement the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" worked out by President Kim Il-song and a statement issued by Kye Ung-tae, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, in support of the "10-point programme".

Papers inform the readers that a national symposium was held in Pyongyang on the occasion of the birthday of President Kim Il-song and functions were being widely conducted in different countries on his birthday.

NODONG SINMUN says that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent messages to heads of state and party leaders of various countries in reply to their messages denouncing the "Team Spirit 93"joint military exercises of the U.S. and South Korean authorities and the "resolution on special inspection" of the DPRK.

Seen in papers are a congratulatory message of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front to Comrade Kim Chong-il upon his election as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK and voices of people of all strata warmly congratulating him upon his election as chairman of the National Defence Commission.

Papers give accounts of talks held between the delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Workers' Party of Switzerland and of a reception hosted by the WPK Central Committee for the delegation.

Conveyed in papers are an account of a reception given by the Supreme People's Assembly for the parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the sojourn of foreign delegations in Pyongyang.

Papers devote much space to accounts of the 11th April spring friendship art festival.

Papers edit articles published by international public circles denouncing the clamour for "a special inspection" of Korea by the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Representatives of the National Liaison Council of the Japanese side to the fact-finding group on the drafting of Koreans demanded a solution of the problems of forcible drafting and "comfort women for the army", say dailies.

Papers come out with articles saying it is a foolish dream for the U.S. imperialists to try to do something against the Korean people through "Radio Free Asia".

NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article says it is an act contrary to the U.N. Charter to take the "nuclear problem" of Korea to the U.N. to put "collective pressure" on it, and MINJU CHOSON in a commentary denounces the acts of the Japanese Government in using money and government power to carry "articles" supporting the use of plutonium.

KCNA Reviews 14 April Pyongyang Press

SK1404102893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0527 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage photo-accompanied reports that the great leader President Kim Il-song received separately a delegation of the Ministry of Culture of Cuba and the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ecuador and his companion.

Papers report that the Cuban minister of culture and the general secretary of the C.C., the Communist Party of Ecuador presented President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il with gifts.

It is reported in the press that a floral basket and a gift were sent to President Kim Il-song by the C.C., the Communist Party of China on his birthday and letters came to him from the participants in meetings held in different countries to celebrate April 15.

Carried in the press are a letter to the great leader generalissimo Kim Il-song from a meeting of Koreans in Japan supporting the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" worked out by him, an account of the meeting, a letter to the standing committee of the Supreme People's Assembly from the meeting, a statement released by the C.C., the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) supporting the 10-point programme and news of meetings held in Provinces to support and implement it.

Given in the press is an account of a seminar on the work of President Kim Il-song "young people must honourably accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche upholding the leadership of the party" which was held in Pyongyang.

According to the press, prominent political, public and academic figures of the world formed the international Kim Il-song prize council on the occasion of the birthday of President Kim Il-song and instituted the international Kim Il-song prize and announced it. Seen in the press are a decision of the council on instituting the prize and the rules of its conferment.

Reported in the press is a message of greetings sent to Comrade Kim Chong-il by chairman of the central military commission of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zemin upon his election as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the employees of the March 4 factory who constructed their factory, reports the press.

Appearing in papers are articles welcoming His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the vice-president of Syria due here today and their profiles.

According to the press, the Pyongyang-Kangdong road was opened to traffic with a due ceremony, shaft No. 3 and a carriage pit were built and the dressing plant was reconstructed on an extension basis and put into operation at the hwadae mine on the threshold of the auspicious April holiday.

Joint performances of the 11th April spring friendship art festival are going on successfully, says the press.

The press informs the readers that the foreign ministry arranged a film show and a reception to celebrate April 15 and talks between parliamentary delegations of Korea and Pakistan were held.

Papers report that a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry was interviewed by KCNA over the pending problem of nuclear weapons between Russia and some countries of the CIS.

It is reported in the press that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged joint aerial war exercises against the DPRK.

A MINJU CHOSON analyst comments on the fact that neo-Nazis are preaching Hitlerism in Japan.

South Korea

DLP Secretary-General Announces Intention to Resign

SK1404015493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0132 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—Choe Hyong-u, one of President Kim Yong-sam's closest confidants, said Wednesday he will resign as secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] over a press report that his son was illegally admitted by Kyungwon University. Choe expressed his intention at DLP headquarters after he had visited Chongwadae [presidential office] and met with Pak Kwan-yong, chief presidential secretary.

Sources said that Choe informed Pak of his intention to resign at the meeting. Choe, however, indicated he had no intention of resigning from the National Assembly by saying: "I'm now in a position of having to wait and see the results (of investigation)."

He apologized to President Kim and the people for causing trouble with a personal problem while the president is launching an anti-corruption campaign. He did not know of his son's illegal entry into Kyungwon University, he insisted. "One thing I want to mention definitely is that I have never met Professor Pak Chun-song," Choe said. A newspaper, attributing its report to Pak, said Choe's son was one of some 250 students who were illegally admitted by the university in 1990.

Kim Yong-sam Names New DLP Secretary-General

SK1404072793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0710 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam named Rep. Hwang Myong-su to replace Choe Hyong-u as secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] on Wednesday. Choe resigned earlier in the day over his son's illegal entrance to Kyongwon University Trade College. Hwang graduated from Tongguk University and has served as vice president of the Reunification Democratic Party, and chairman of the National Assembly Health and Social Affairs Committee.

Kim: Seoul To Devote Efforts Toward DPRK NPT Return

SK1404031193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0258 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam and his national security advisers decided Wednesday to devote all of the country's diplomatic energies to trying to persuade North Korea to remain in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), Senior Presidential Press Secretary Yi Kyong-chae said. He said the government would prepare for the possibility of North Korean reconciliatory gestures, like suggesting dialogue with the South, after President Kim Il-song's birthday Thursday [15 Apr].

Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu told the meeting that he would meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen when he attended a session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok and ask him to cooperate in South Korea's bid to get North Korea to retract its decision to withdraw from the NPT, Yi said. Deputy Prime Minister and National Unification Minister Han Wan-sang, Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae, National Security Planning Director Kim Tok, Chief Presidential Secretary Pak Kwan-yong, Senior Secretary for National Security Chong Chong-uk also attended the meeting, Yi said.

International Union Urges DPRK Return

SK1304232793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0950 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—The Internatonal Democratic Union (IDU) called upon North Korea to return to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) during its executive and standing committees meetings held in Tokyo on Monday. Rep. Yi Se-ki who represented the ruling Democratic Liberal Party at the Tokyo meetings said the IDU, in a joint statement, urged the U.N. Security Council to take all available measures to make North Korea return to the NPT.

The IDU also said in the statement that it wishes for the birth of a government respecting a democratic market economy in North Korea, and expressed its full support for Korea's unification and the policies being pursued by South Korea's Democratic Liberal Party. The Tokyo meetings were attended by the representatives of 34 conservative and right-wing middle-of-the-road political parties around the world.

Daily Profiles DPRK's SPA Chairman Yang Hyong-sop

SK1404011893 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 9 Apr 93 p 6

[By Kim In-chol]

[Text] Yang Hyong-sop is chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of North Korea. He is 70 years old, born in 1923. Because he arranged banquets for each of our side's delegations to the second, fourth, sixth, and eighth rounds of South-North high-level talks when they visited Pyongyang, he is familiar to the South side's figures. He was born in Cheju Island and is husband of Kim Sin-suk, President Kim Il-song's niece, who died in 1986.

Along with Hwang Chang-yop, 68, secretary of the Workers Party of Korea who is in charge of ideology, Yang is known as North Korea's ideological mainstay that systemized the unitary, chuche idea which sustains North Korea's socialism.

Yang is actively carrying out external activities. During his visit to China in May, he held talks with Chinese General Secretary Jiang Zemin and asked him to support North Korea's reunification policy. In December, he met with visiting U.S. Senator Bob Smith who was in North Korean studying the issue of U.S. soldiers lost during the Korean war, and held talks with him on pending issues.

Yang has maintained his power and position since he succeeded Hwang Chang-yop who is known to have played the lead role in idolizing Kim Il-song, as chairman of the SPA in 1986. Yang is member of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, chairman of the Democratic Front for Reunification of the Fatherland, and president of the Academy of Social Sciences, as well.

U.S. Serviceman Given Life Sentence for Murdering Korean

SK1404060593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0557 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—Pvt. Kenneth Markle, 20, of the Second U.S. Infantry Division, was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a Korean woman by the Seoul District Criminal Court on Wednesday. Markle, from Keyser, West Virginia, had been indicted on charges of killing Yun Kum-ae after drinking with her at a bar in Tongduchon, near the Second U.S. Infantry Division headquarters north of Seoul, in October 1992.

Presiding Judge Pyon Tong-kol of court panel no. 24 said all evidence the bench had examined supported the charges. After the verdict, which was what the prosecution had asked for, Markle was bustled out of the courtroom looking depressed. Some 200 spectators, mostly dissident activists, shouted: "Execute the murderer GI and let's achieve national self-reliance!"

4th Round of ROK-U.S. Beef Talks Open

SK1404021093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0053 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 13 [date as received] (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States began their fourth round of beef negotiations Tuesday, touching on improvements in Korea's beef import quota and marketing structure, and the timing of complete market opening. Head Korean negotiator Kim Tong-tae, director-general for Livestock Affairs at the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, pointed out that although the import quota was 66,000 tons in 1992, Korea actually imported 130,000 tons of beef last year.

Kim proposed this year's quota be 99,000 tons, but American Chief Negotiator Peter Collins, director for Korea at the U.S. Trade Representative, called for a drastic quota increase based on the great demand in Korea, a Korean delegation official said. Smooth sailing is unlikely over the issue of Korea's complete market opening as Washington demanded free access by July 1, 1997, as agreed, while Seoul stepped back, saying market opening in 1997 would follow the regulations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Collins requested that the simultaneous buy and sell system be extended to supermarkets and department stores, and Kim agreed on condition that it did not cause disorder in the beef market.

Daily Urges 'Fair Reportage' on Los Angeles Situation

SK1404054293 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 14 Apr 93 p 6

[Article from "Reporter's Eye" column by Los Angeles correspondent Yi Chun-hui: "Fair Reportage on Los Angeles"]

[Text] The Rodney King trial at a U.S. federal courthouse is now reaching its end. As a result, tension is escalating in Los Angeles, and Koreans there are very worried. They are also agitated by U.S. media coverage of this trial.

Major U.S. television networks are reporting on the course of the trial and the scenes of the city at every hour. The problem is that the Korean community is the focus of their coverage.

They show footage of Koreans buying guns and carry interviews with gun salesmen. They also carry interviews with Korean housewives and children who say that they will not stand by and be victimized this time and that "we hope nothing happens this time."

These television reports encourage the mistaken belief that the Los Angeles incident was caused by conflicts between blacks and Koreans.

This correspondent also feels that this is also true of [last year's reportage of] the "April 29 riots."

In short, the goal of mass media of the white-dominated society is clear. Various studies that were conducted after the Los Angeles incident show that economic and social inequality between blacks and whites was the major cause of the incident. However, U.S. media are dexteriously trying to pass the blame for the incident on to ethnic conflicts between minorities.

This time, ROK newspapers even joined their U.S. counterparts in decrying the irresponsible "violence" against the Korean community. Numerous Korean compatriots living in Los Angeles were surprised by urgent calls from family members or relatives in the ROK last Sunday evening and Monday morning.

This was caused by the front page article in a Korean newspaper on "violence and pillaging against Koreans resuming in Los Angeles."

The article "boldly" interpreted a routine criminal case, as part of a riot, and said that shops in Korea Town which were operating as usual, were closed and that "blacks had begun acts of violence and firing guns at Koreans."

Some Koreans called CHOSON ILBO's U.S. headquarters in Los Angeles and expressed their anger by saying: "Are they eager to see a riot in Los Angeles?"

Mass media must soon rearm themselves with "fair reportage" just like Koreans here are arming themselves with guns for protection.

Seoul To Convert U.S. TV Channel for Military Use

SK1404015293 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0900 GMT 13 April 93

[Text] The Government decided that when the American Forces Korean Network's [AFKN] channel is returned to the ROK, the channel's licence will not be given to a commercial television company but used exclusively for military communications.

In a meeting between the Democratic Liberal Party and the Ministry of Information today, the government announced that they will reserve channel 2 for exclusive military use. The government reasoned that if a license is issued for a commercial television company, the current output of 5 kilowatt has to be raised sharply, thus greatly hampering the military communications system.

Seoul May Allow Foreigners To Invest in Cable TV

SK1404022093 Seoul YONHAP in English 1205 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—Information Minister O In-hwan said on Tuesday that the government would ban foreigners' investment in cable broadcasting business for the time being but is reviewing a plan to allow foreigners to invest in CA-TV [cable television] programs to a specific extent. In a report at a joint ruling party-administration meeting, Minister O said that the government's basic policy is to consider the opening of the cable broadcasting market only after the CA-TV system takes a firm root.

"In view of our trade problems with the United States, however, we are thinking of improving the situation a little," O said. As for the ratio of foreign programs to be used in CA-TV, the minister said his office is willing to readjust slightly upward the existing 30 percent ceiling in specific areas only. Regarding a plan on television channel 2, which is to be turned over to Korea from the [U.S.] AFKN [Armed Forces Korea Network] shortly, Minister O said that there would be no telecasting on channel 2 after its return because any strengthened beaming on the channel is apt to disturb military radio communications.

Envoy To Russia Urges Resumption of Economic Aid

SK1404083293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0804 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—Ambassador to Russia Kim Sok-kyu has called for the government to resume economic aid to Moscow as soon as it receives interest overdue on its loans. "We must consider global trends," he told a news conference Wednesday. "This is an opportunity to make the Russian people comfortable using Korean products. By giving the promised aid, Seoul can stake a claim to Russia's rich resources and high technology."

Seoul restored relations with Moscow in 1990 and promised 3 billion U.S. dollars in aid, including 1 billion dollars in cash. The cash was delivered but tied-loans stopped when the Soviet Union collapsed and Russia was unable to repay its predecessor's debts.

"Russia presented legal documents taking responsibility for the debts and paid interest to end of last year," Kim said. "Economic aid must resume as soon as Moscow pays the amount due for the first three months of this year." "Some may question Russia's status as a superpower because of its economic troubles and internal strife. But it owns more than 20,000 nuclear warheads, is a military superpower, is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and is a close neighbor of the Korean peninsula," he said.

Russia has inherited the Soviet Union's basic relations treaty with North Korea, guaranteeing automatic intervention in war. "The treaty must be revised to fit the present circumstances," Kim said. On the status of ethnic Koreans in Russia, the ambassador said Seoul did not want a community created just for them. "Seoul wants to see them settle in Russia with full legal rights," he said.

Seoul To Send Group to Russia on Nuclear Contamination

SK1304232893 Seoul YONHAP in English 1014 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—South Korea will send a delegation to Russia between July and September for joint survey of nuclear contamination of the East Sea, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday. The delegation is to collect various samples from areas suspected of nuclear radiation and bring them home for analysis, officials said after an inter-ministerial meeting.

The Russian presidential office has responded to South Korea's request for a joint survey last week and asked Seoul to participate in its own investigation. A Russian white paper on the environment has confirmed that the Soviet Union and Russia tossed more than 144,000 cubic meters of nuclear waste into the East Sea and waters off Kamchatka Bay between 1966 and 1992. Seoul plans to ask the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to support the investigation and urge Japan to join in for a more objective and international probe into the case, officials said.

Daily Interviews Former Soviet Envoy to DPRK

SK1204042093 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 11 Apr 93 p 20

[Interview with Nikolay Shubnikov, former Soviet ambassador to North Korea, by Moscow correspondent Chang Haeng-hun—place and date not given]

[Text] We met with Nikolay Shubnikov, 69, who has spent most of his career as a diplomat in North Korea. He retired in late 1987 after serving as Soviet ambassador in Pyongyang, his final post. With President Kim Il-song's birthday, 15 April, just around the corner, we asked him about the changes North Korea had undergone in the past 30 years and about North Korea's present and future.

Former Ambassador Shubnikov also worked as an officer in charge of North Korea at the CPSU and the Soviet Foreign Ministry. He is known to be a Russian who knows best about the North Korean situation and Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

[Chang Haeng-hun] When did your ties with North Korea start?

[Nikolay Shubnikov] I worked in North Korea three times. I worked as a secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang in early 1960, as a counselor in the 1970's, and as ambassador from 1983 to 1987, for five years. I worked in North Korea for a total of 13 years.

[Chang] Did you notice any changes each time you went to North Korea for a new assignment?

[Shubnikov] Yes, I did. There were many changes each time. North Korea underwent those changes under external influences. The Soviet Union and China exerted equal influence on North Korea when I first went to North Korea in early 1960. The Soviet Union exerted more influence on North Korea than China or vice versa for sometime later. However, when Kim Il-song strengthened his own power and declared chuche, the two countries were relegated to the back burner. If I were to sum up the past 30 years (1960-1990), I would say that this was a period during which Kim Il-song strengthened his own power.

[Chang] Is there any force against Kim Il-song in North Korea?

[Shubnikov] I left North Korea five years ago. So, I cannot exactly say. I think, however, that there is no organized opposing force. There may be potential opponents because there are many discontent people. Poor living conditions are the cause for discontent.

[Chang] North Korea's economy was in good condition in the 1960's. Why is North Korea economically backward at present?

[Shubnikov] The first reason is that socialist countries which had given North Korea assistance have disappeared. As a matter of fact, the assistance socialist countries provided North Korea with was not that much. The Soviet Union gave a mere 2 billion to 2.5 billion rubles in assistance to North Korea for 40 years. North Korea invested money earned through trade, grants, and loans, in heavy industries and not in light industries which produce necessities for people. This is the second reason. The third reason concerns the military. North Korea, a country of 15 million people, has one million troops.

[Chang] North Korean people's living conditions are said to have deteriorated further recently. Would you comment?

[Shubnikov] North Korean people's living conditions are very poor. This is a fact. However, their living conditions in the 1960's were better than those in the 1950's, and those in the 1990's are better than those in the 1980's. But, in absolute terms, their living conditions are very poor. They are very, very poor when compared to those of ROK people.

[Chang] Some people say that the military does not like Kim Chong-il's inheritance of power. Is it possible for the military to rise in revolt?

[Shubnikov] I do not think so. I met frequently with Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il, and their family. I know people around them relatively well. Anti-Japanese partisans are still holding the top posts of the military. All of them respect Kim Il-song. The education in loyalty not only to Kim Il-song but also to Kim Chong-il is being conducted in North Korea. Therefore, I think that the military will not rise in revolt. As long as Kim Il-song is alive, nothing will change. Power transfer from the father to Kim Chong-il was completed long ago. The power was transferred to Kim Chong-il on a gradual basis. Kim Il-song holds the presidency only; Kim Chong-il exercises all practical power.

[Chang] Do you think Kim Chong-il will pursue reforms or changes in an effort to avoid a crisis?

[Shubnikov] I personally do not believe he will for now. He is over 50 years old. He is too old to be embark on an adventure.

[Chang] Rumors abound that Kim Chong-il is leading a luxurious lifestyle. Would you comment?

[Shubnikov] I can say he is leading a luxurious lifestyle. He is, considering North Korean people's living standards. However, I do not think he is, compared to Russian officials who are in similar positions.

[Chang] Do you think North Korean people respect Kim Chong-il just like they respect Kim Il-song?

[Shubnikov] I think so.

[Chang] Does Kim Chong-il have competitors?

[Shubnikov] Competitors can be found in his family if there is any. However, I think, all of the family members are making efforts to beef up Kim Chong-il's power at present.

[Chang] Do you think reunification is possible?

[Shubnikov] The difference in systems between North and South Korea is the biggest obstacle to reunification, unfortunately. The North and South must continuously make contacts to lower the barrier dividing them. However, Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il seem to think reunification is impossible for now.

[Chang] Do they think reunification is impossible because they will lose everything if reunification is achieved?

[Shubnikov] Yes. They think so because it is clear that reunification will be achieved with South Korea absorbing North Korea.

[Chang] How long have you known Kim Il-song and his family?

[Shubnikov] I have known them since I worked at the CPSU Central Committee in the 1950's. I saw Kim Il-song at hand on many occasions. Kim Il-song often came to Moscow by plane and underwent medical treatment and took rests. His family came along.

[Chang] You said he came to Moscow often?

[Shubnikov] Yes. He came with his wife.

[Chang] I heard that he came to Moscow by train all the time, except when he came to Moscow by plane in 1984...

[Shubnikov] No. He came to Moscow by plane all the time. Relations between the two countries cooled from 1962 to 1970. So, he did not come to Moscow very often during that period. However, he came to Moscow almost every year until the early 1960's.

[Chang] Did Kim Chong-il come to Moscow often?

[Shubnikov] He was a little different. His children came. His daughter studied and underwent medical treatment in Moscow for some time.

Kim To Take 'Forward-Looking' Stance on Japan Ties

SK1404075793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0735 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam said Wednesday that his administration, unlike previous South Korean governments, would take a forward-looking posture in relations with Japan. "Even on the so-called comfort women question, which has been pending between the two countries, South Korea does not want monetary compensation," Kim said. "I only hope that a resolution of the issue will offer an opportunity for Japan to reflect on its past mistake through an investigation of the historical fact."

Kim made the remark when he met with 17 Japanese members of the Korea-Japan Economic Council led by Nobuya Hagura at Chongwadae. Kim also expressed concern over South Korea's burgeoning trade deficit with Japan and asked for more Japanese efforts to help correct the imbalance. He said it would be a good model for Japan's external trade policy.

In order for the bilateral trade relations to thrive and to be forward-looking, an atmosphere of mutual trust should be fostered and frank and sincere opinions should be exchanged, Kim said. Exchanges of technicians, entrepreneurs and students should also be promoted, Kim added.

Envoy Urges Examination of Japan 'Political Ascension'

SK1304101793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—In trying to decide whether it is for or against Tokyo's becoming a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, South Korea must realize that most of the world supports Japan's political ascension, new South Korean Ambassador to Japan Kong No-myong said Tuesday.

Japan was elected seven times to a non-permanent security seat since it joined the United Nations in 1956, the most for a single country, he told a press conference.

"Compared to barely two-thirds of the necessary vote back in 1987, Japan won the seat in 1991 with 158 out of 161 votes.

"Recent polls of Asian countries, many of them victims of Japan's war atrocities, show more than 90 percent of them support Tokyo's bigger political role in the international community," Kong said when asked Seoul's position on Japan becoming a permanent member in the Security Council.

Korea, under Japanese colonial rule for 35 years (1910-1945) before being freed at the end of World War II, is silent on whether it supports Tokyo's having a permanent seat.

Unsettled issues from the past remain, such as women who were forced to serve in frontline brothels as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during the war, hindering bilateral relations.

Kong, a career diplomat who has served as director, deputy director-general and director-general for Asian affairs, is to take the helm in Tokyo later this month.

The ambassador called for a "mature, balanced" approach to relations with Japan for resolution of political issues like comfort women.

"It's about time Seoul shed its complex," he said of a shunning of Japanese culture in Korea. "It is like treating a patient who has been ill for a long time. The treatment has to be from within, not just on the body.

"There is room for constructive cultural exchanges," he said.

He suggested Korean efforts in solving economic issues, calling for structural changes in industry to end a heavy reliance on Japanese capital goods.

An initiative to revive small and medium-sized companies would naturally expedite technology development and technology transfer with Japan, Kong predicted.

"We have to set up a new forum of academics, journalists and opinion leaders to reflect the changing times," he said, urging changes from old dialogue channels between political seniors and sending envoys with personal connections to Japan's Government.

"The people from the war generation account for only 20 percent in Japan," he said. "We need a new pipeline to form a new relationship mirroring the new trend in bilateral ties."

PRC Christian Leader Discusses Inter-Korean Relations

SK1204113993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1017 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—A visiting Chinese Christian leader said here on Monday that Chinese church could do to help improve relations between the South and North Korean churches. [sentence as received] Ding Guangxun, president of the Christian Council of China, told reporters that his church was yet to think of helping mend the relations of the South and North Korean churches.

"I think any active intervention will not be helpful. If there is any we can help, we will," he said. Ding, who is concurrently a Standing Committee member of China's National People's Congress, said the Chinese church has been staging a three-self patriotic movement since 1951 because there still remains in China the perception of Christianity being a "tool of imperialism." He said that China will not allow the entry of foreign missionaries.

"But, we will continue to engage in exchanges with foreign churches by sending seminary students to abroad and bringing in foreign publications," he said. Ding said that in China Christians number about 5 to 6 million, churches some 7,000 and seminaries 13. Christianity, like other religions, was persecuted during the Cultural Revolution. But, the honor of clergymen has since been restored, he said. Ding arrived in Seoul on last Saturday [10 April] at the invitation of the Korean National Council of Churches (KNCC).

'Administration Reform Committee' Chairman Named

SK1404050593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0222 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—Professor Pak Tongso of Seoul National University was named chairman of the Administration Reform Committee on Tuesday. The 14-member committee, formed under rules announced on April 9, will exist for a year to study ways to improve administrative practices, handling of petitions and relations between the central government and local governments.

The committee reports directly to President Kim Yongsam. Under its control is a working committee, headed by the chief of the Office of Administrative Coordination in the Office of the Prime Minister. The 20-member working committee will be set up next week.

President Instructs Prosecutors on By-Elections

SK1404050493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0312 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam instructed senior prosecutors across the nation Wednesday to crack down on payoffs for votes and other illegal electioneering for upcoming by-elections. Kim's instruction came at a luncheon for Justice Minister Kim Tu-hui and 40 senior officials of prosecutors' offices at Chongwadae.

Declaring that the by-elections would be the watershed for his administration's reform efforts, Kim told the law-enforcement officials to prosecute election law violators regardless of their position. Elections for vacant seats in the National Assembly are to be held April 23 in three districts—two in Pusan and one in Kyonggi Province.

"The prosecutors' office is the engine of the nation's law-enforcement apparatus," Kim said, urging them not to spare any segment of society regarded as "sanctuary" in the past. Kim said the fact that two "able" chief prosecutors had to resign following the disclosure of their personal assets shows that the people's moral standards for prosecutors is very high.

Prosecutors should clean up their own back yards before they judge the wrongdoing and irregularities of others, Kim said. The president reiterated that the eradication of corruption still had top priority for his administration. The anti-corruption campaign should never slacken because it is closely tied with the establishment of law and order and revitalization of the nation's economy, Kim said.

UPP Lawmakers Relocate From Tent to New Office

SK1304040693 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Apr 93 p 2

[By staff correspondent Kim Kyong-ho]

[Text] Lawmakers of the minor opposition United People's Party [UPP], ending three weeks of "tent life" in downtown Seoul, have moved to a new office in southern Seoul.

Last Wednesday, the UPP lawmakers folded a tent which had been used as the party's makeshift headquarters since mid-March.

They pitched the tent in the parking lot of a Hyundai company building in central Seoul in protest against the shutdown of the party head office housed there.

Explaining the reason for taking away the tent office without receiving any concession from Hyundai, UPP leader Kim Tong-kil said his party had chosen to respect the people's wish for the party to normalize its business.

Many political observers, however, say that unfavorable public mood following the disclosures of its lawmakers' "huge" fortunes prompted the party to tear down the tent office.

After Chong Chu-yong, billionaire founder of the Hyundai Group, gave up his UPP membership in February, Hyundai asked the party to move out of the headquarters building. Instead, it offered to rent a nearby five-story building.

But the UPP, which Chong created early last year, rejected the offer, saying the building is "too old" to be used as party headquarters.

The party countered by calling on Hyundai to return 16.8 billion won in political funds owned by the party when Chong left the UPP.

UPP lawmakers led by Kim Tong-kil, elected to replace Chong as the executive chairman, said they would never leave the party headquarters unless the money is paid or a building worth the sum is given.

Hyundai, however, claimed that it had already used the money to pay back debts caused by Chong's high-spending campaign for the Dec. 18 presidential election, which ended with a bitter failue.

After the blockade of the party headquarters, the UPP sued Chong, complaining that he illegally interrupted the party's business.

The UPP legislators vowed to stage a sit-in in the tent until their demand was met.

With Hyundai showing no response to its demand, the UPP moved in to a 90-pyong office in a building in Pangbae-dong, southern Seoul, on the same day it tore down the tent headquarters.

The money to rent the office was known to have come from the pockets of some UPP lawmakers.

Party leader Kim also provided his personal office, with a floor space of 30 pyong, to accommodate the party's policy-making staff.

The quick movement appeared, to outsiders, intended to prevent the UPP lawmakers' tent life from becoming a public scorn after the disclosures of their personal holdings last Monday.

The disclosures revealed most of the 14 UPP lawmakers are rich. Their average wealth of 2.06 billion won was slightly below the ruling Democratic Liberal Party lawmakers' 2.56 billion won but nearly double the main opposition Democratic Party legislators' 1.12 billion won.

The wealthiest was Rep. Chong Chu-il who departed from the party last Tuesday after disclosing assets of 4.7 billion won. The comedian-turned-lawmaker did not comply with Monday's deadline for submitting financial statements in protest against the party's decision to make public the property list of its lawmakers.

Next on the list was Rep. Yu Su-ho, who quoted his personal assets at 3.93 billion won. Yu was followed by Reps. Son Sung-tok at 3.47 billion won Kim Pok-tong at 3.47 billion won and Pak Chol-on at 2.48 billion won.

UPP leader Kim Tong-kil, who reported his assets at 1.5 billion won, held savings of 712 million won, the largest amount among all the UPP parliamentary mebmers.

"Looking into the property list, no one will sympathize with the party lawmakers staging a sit-in in the tent, asking for a new headquarters building," a UPP official admitted.

Furthermore, many of the richest UPP legislators came under suspicion of having speculated in read estate just like their peers belonging to the ruling and major opposition parties.

Rep. Kim Yong-hwan, who quoted his wealth at 2.74 billion won, left for the United States along with his wife to "stay with his son" on the day the UPP made public the property list of its lawmakers.

Kim was later found to have sold off a 450-pyong lot in Seoul worth over 7 billion won to a Daewoo company just four days before the asset disclosures by his party.

At the first meeting of party officials at the new office, a dozen participants agreed to form a group to investigate its lawmakers suspected of amassing for tunes through allegedly illegal means. Political watchers, however, raised doubts over the usefulness of the investigation, indicating that most of the UPP lawmakers facing public uproar over their asset disclosures have virtually cut relations with the party widely seen as falling into oblivion.

Official To Inspect Foreign Banks for 'Black Money'

SK1404120693 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Apr 93 p 9

[By staff correspondent Yi Chang-sop]

[Text] A controversy is brewing over a high-ranking government official's indication that foreign banks in Korea are a haven for black money.

Yi Hoe-chang, chairman of the Board of Audit and Inspection, indicated Monday at the National Assembly that the government will look into foreign banks here to check money laundering or trace black money.

He also said that the government will audit not only local banks but also foreign banks to root out banking irregularities, including excessive compensating balance requirements or kickbacks.

Yi said it is flunkeyism to think that it is impossible to audit foreign banks, adding that "the foreign banks must be under close scrutiny because black money can easily flow into them."

He made the remark in a report to lawmakers on the progress of the audit of 114 executives of state-run banks. He said the BAI is tracing both realname and pseudonym accounts of 114 executives with state-invested banks.

Yi did not clearly refer to foreign banks here as a haven for black money but the tone of his speech was enough to lead Western bankers into believing that the BAI chief has a fixed perception that foreign banks might have accepted "dirty money" from corrupt Korean officials and their family members.

Many Korean staffers at foreign banks are vexed by Yi's indication that like Korean bankers, they are receiving kickbacks from borrowers in return for loans.

Furthermore, they said receiving a specific portion of deposits in return for loans is a general banking practice, not a banking irregularity. They added the compensating balance exists because interest rates are regulated.

Many foreign bankers contend that it is nonsensical to think that foreign banks are a haven for black money. They added that they welcome the Korean Government's crackdown on bribery and banking irregularities.

As most foreign banks here maintain small branches with less than 100 employees, they are engaged in wholesale banking, mostly with corporate customers, not with individuals.

One U.S. banker said "Under U.S. regulation, we are obligated to keep records of any cash transaction of more than 10,000 dollars." He said "we are ready to provide these records as long as the banking regulator, the prosecution and the tax office demands these documents for criminal or tax investigations."

But he added that "we have a legal basis to reject any arbitrary requests for deposit-documents submission." "If an intelligence officer visits our office for deposit documents, we will reject the illegal solicitation because we have an obligation to protect our customers as long as they are not criminals," he said.

A Citibank official said, "the American bank has been cooperative with the banking regulator and tax offices in checking movement of funds." Another banker said it is wrong to say that foreign banks have been subject to less audits than local banks.

Many foreign bankers said they agree with the government's move to root out sanctuary for money laundering or black money. But they said if the banking regulator arbitrarily demands deposit documents without justifiable reasons, it will call into question the integrity of the government.

A Korean manager at a foreign bank said, it is comedy if a high-ranking Korean Government official believes that foreign banks here maintain "secret deposit accounts" with Korean customers. He added that this is not Switzerland.

He added "we are quite displeased with the general perception that foreign banks here are beyond the reach of regulators and inspectors."

Many Western bankers said, "we have internal codes of conduct that prohibit transaction of black money or money laundering."

They said what reaction will Korea have if the FBI or CIA intended to look into New York branches of the Korea Exchange Bank. They said the BAI chief made an indirect indication that it was necessary to inspect foreign bank branches in Korea because money tends to flow into foreign banks as a result of official scrutiny of domestic banks.

They added due to Korea's tight foreign exchange regulations, black money can not flow out of Korea through the international banks here.

Mar Trade Figures Show $229 Million Deficit

SK1304232693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0947 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—South Korea's trade in March recorded a deficit of 229 million dollars with exports totaling 6,942 million dollars and imports 7,171 million dollars on a customs clearance basis. The March exports represented a gain of 8.0 percent over the same month of last year and imports a decline of 0.4 percent.

The customs administration reported on Tuesday that the exports aggregate during the first three months of the year amounted to 18,244 million dollars, up 7.5 percent over the corresponding period of last year. Imports in the January-March period were 19,961 million dollars, down 4.5 percent from a year earlier, recording a trade deficit of 1,717 million dollars in the three months period.

The exports of heavy and chemical industrial products increased by 7.3 percent over a year before thanks largely to expanded shipment of automobiles, steel goods and machinery, while those of light industrial goods decreased by 12.4 pecent due to a decline in textile items, plywood and other wooden goods, and canvas shoes. By country, trade with Hong Kong and Singapore showed a surplus of 1,581 million won in the three months, up 36 million dollars over a year before, and that with China, which showed deficits in the past, recorded a surplus of 263 million dollars for the first time. On the other hand, a deficit of 422 million dollars was showed in trade with the European Community in the three months, 279 million dollars deficit with the U.S. and 1,865 million dollars deficits with Japan.

Burma

Agriculture Minister, Delegation Return From PRC

BK1304092393 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] At the invitation of agricultural minister of the People's Republic of China [PRC], a Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Agricultural Minister Lieutenant General Myint Aung left Myanmar for the PRC on 31 March. The delegation attended an inauguration ceremony of the Third International Trade Fair held in Beijing on 2 April.

The delegation returned to Yangon [Rangoon] at 1415 today on Singapore Airlines after having observed agricultural activities, agricultural machinery, and exporting of agricultural products in the PRC.

The delegation was welcomed at Yangon Airport by Forestry Affairs Minister Lt. Gen. Chit Swe, Hotel and Tourism Minister Lt. Gen. Kyaw Ba, Deputy Agricultural Minister U Tin Hlaing, PRC Ambassador Mr. Liang Feng, departmental officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, responsible personnel, and family members.

After attending an inauguration ceremony on 2 April, a Myanmar delegation led by Agricultural Minister Lt. Gen. Myint Aung accompanied and provided explanations to the group members led by State Councillor and Vice Premier Li Lanqing—who were also attending an inauguration ceremony—during their tour of the Myanmar Trade Showroom at the Trade Fair.

The products from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forestry Affairs, Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Mines were displayed at the Myanmar Trade Showroom.

The products being displayed at the Myanmar Trade Showroom were sold after the trade fair. They brought in over US$150,000. During the Trade Fair, about US$12 million worth of trade agreements were signed.

During his stay in the PRC, the minister of agriculture met State Councillor Mr. Chen Junsheng at the People's Hall and held a cordial discussion on matters concerning friendship between the two countries, and economic development. He also met and held discussions with the minister of agriculture, minister of industry, high-ranking departmental officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Industry, and high-ranking military officers from the People's Liberation Army of the Government of the PRC.

The Myanmar delegation led by Agricultural Minister Lieutenant General Myint Aung observed agricultural activities, production and use of agricultural machinery, production of agricultural products, and exporting of agricultural products from the PRC. It has been learned that the Myanmar delegation also discussed matters concerning the import of light agricultural machinery to Myanmar, assembly of light agricultural machinery in Myanmar, cooperation between the two countries in the agricultural sector, and trade.

Trade Minister, Delegation Depart for PRC

BK1304092293 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] A 15-member Myanmar [Burmese] trade delegation led by Lieutenant General Tun Kyi, trade minister, and other members left Yangon [Rangoon] by air this morning to attend the 73d Spring Trade Fair to be held in Guandong city, PRC, from 15 to 24 April.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Close Office, Leave Phnom Penh

BK1404001293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1806 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 13 (AFP)—Cambodia's radical Khmer Rouge closed their office in Phnom Penh and left the city Tuesday saying they no longer felt safe enough to remain and continue working in the Supreme National Council (SNC).

The faction's nominal leader Khieu Samphan, in a letter addressed to head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk said he was giving back the faction's compound adjacent to the Royal Palace in downtown Phnom Penh.

"It said they were leaving Phnom Penh. It thanked the prince for his generous support in providing a house, but it said they didn't feel secure," UN spokesman Eric Berman said.

However, the United Nations was not contacted directly by the Khmer Rouge about the departure and was seeking confirmation from the faction, Berman said.

It was not immediately clear whether the letter meant the Khmer Rouge were pulling out of the peace process, he said.

"Where they hang their hat is not a concern to us," he said. "The most important thing is if they're dropping out of the peace process."

The letter refers to withdrawing participation in the Supreme National Council (SNC), the master plan behind the 1991 peace accords ending the civil war which groups Cambodia's warring factions under UN supervision.

But Berman said it was not clear whether the Khmer Rouge were actually quitting the SNC for good.

The Khmer Rouge have long complained that the SNC lacked real power, and at the most recent meeting Saturday, UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi issued "a stern and solemn warning" to the Khmer Rouge that they were on their way to "outlaw status."

The government policeman assigned to guard the ochre-walled compound confirmed that everyone—including drivers and guards who are usually on duty—left at 8:30 a.m. and did not return.

Only eight guard dogs from Thailand were left inside, the head of security Yu Rithi said.

"This is the first time they've ever been gone for so long," he said. "The dogs haven't been fed at all today."

The Khmer Rouge compound, while not always staffed with high-level Khmer Rouge officials, at least gave UNTAC a point of contact.

In the recent series of attacks against UN peacekeepers by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, UNTAC had delivered arrest warrants for those believed responsible to the compound.

At the SNC meeting Saturday, Akashi lamented the fact the Khieu Samphan did not respond to his request to hand over the suspects.

A rough translation of the letter written in Khmer and seen here has Khieu Samphan saying his faction has been unjustly accused by UNTAC and by the Phnom Penh government for the violence that has increased throughout the country in recent weeks.

The rough translation also says the Khmer Rouge departure from Phnom Penh would be "temporary" but that Prince Sihanouk was free to have back the compound.

Prince Sihanouk, who also chairs the SNC, was due to leave Cambodia for North Korea early Friday morning to attend the 81st birthday celebrations of President Kim Il-song.

The opposition FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, formerly allied with the Khmer Rouge during the 14 years oif civil war against the Phnom Penh government, also confirmed that the the Khmer Rouge had left Phnom Penh.

"The Khmer Rouge have pulled out of their compound. They've handed it back to Prince Sihanouk and the palace. They say they are leaving because they are worried about their security," a senior FUNCINPEC official in Phnom Penh said.

Pledge Adherence to Paris Accord

BK1404041493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0403 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 14 (AFP)—The radical Khmer Rouge, who have closed their office and pulled out of Phnom Penh, said in a letter explaining their actions that they are still adhering to the peace accords ending the Cambodian conflict.

"According to the present situation, we have seen that we do not have enough security to continue our work with the SNC [Supreme National Council] in Phnom Penh anymore," the letter translated Wednesday by AFP said.

The SNC is the Supreme National Council, the nucleus of the 1991 Paris peace accords that group the country's warring factions under U.N. supervision to represent the country's sovereignty until U.N. elections scheduled for May.

"In the past as well as the future, the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (the Khmer Rouge) still abides by the Paris agreement," the letter sent Tuesday from Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan to SNC Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk said.

The letter said the head of the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, and the Phnom Penh government Prime Minister Hun Sen have unjustly accused the faction of complicity in the escalation of violence in the country.

"When they accuse us, they may create a situation that cannot offer us enough security to continue to work in Phnom Penh," Khieu Samphan said in the letter. "That is why we are forced to leave the office in Phnom Penh temporarily."

"In this situation, we would like to offer our land and buildings to the prince to keep as royal property," the letter said.

"We cannot forget the good deed (you have done) in helping us and giving us the possibility to work with the SNC in Phnom Penh thus far," he concluded, offering Prince Sihanouk his highest regards.

Government Fears 'Massive' Khmer Rouge Attack

BK1404055293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0511 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 14 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government said Wednesday that the pullout of the Khmer Rouge from the Cambodian capital may mean they will launch a massive attack against U.N. peacekeepers and government armed forces.

The country was relatively quiet, with the usual level of skirmishes and shelling in the countryside, at the beginning of the three-day Cambodian New Year celebration which began Tuesday, said government senior advisor and deputy minister Khieu Kanharit.

"We are expecting they will launch some attacks after the New Year," he said. "If they launch a major offensive, it's better that all their leaders leave Phnom Penh."

He said Khmer Rouge guerrillas were expected to try to take over the furthest northern district of Choam Khsan in Preah Vihear province.

"If they launch a massive attack there, we have difficulty in sending reinforcements" because government supply routes have been cut from the south since a Khmer Rouge offensive last year, he said.

UNTAC Recalls Election Monitors to Capital

OW1404015293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0129 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 14 KYODO—The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has decided to recall all U.N. election monitors in the country to Phnom Penh, officials said.

The decision was made Tuesday [13 April] after the UNTAC and representatives of the monitors failed to reach an agreement on guaranteeing the safety of the election workers following the slaying of a Japanese volunteer last Thursday, the officials said.

UNTAC had drawn up security measures such as the protection of the election monitors by UNTAC forces and the establishment of an emergency rescue corps, but the monitors were dissatisfied with the measures, the officials said.

The election workers are helping to arrange and monitor the planned May 23-27 general elections, the first democratic vote in the war-torn country in decades.

U.N. election monitors in central and northwest Cambodia such as Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham and Siem Reap have already returned to Phnom Penh.

Most of the recent attacks, chiefly on ethnic Vietnamese, occurred in those areas and the UNTAC suspects the Khmer Rouge guerrillas are to blame for many of the deadly assaults.

The Khmer Rouge is the only faction which has refused to disarm and demobilize its troops, saying it will not join the U.N.-initiated peace process until it is satisfied that all Vietnamese troops have left the country.

Vietnam announced the complete withdrawal of its forces from Cambodia in 1989.

Two U.N. election workers, one each from France and Norway, returned home Tuesday after refusing to resume their duties in Kompong Thom Province, the officials said.

Kompong Thom is the province where Atsuhito Nakata, a Japanese U.N. election monitor, and his Cambodian assistant were shot dead by suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Election workers said they will decide whether to resume their duties after UNTAC presents new security measures.

Japanese Peacekeepers Ordered To Remain in Camp

OW1404102293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1007 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 14 KYODO—A Japanese commander has ordered Japan's peacekeepers to stay in their camp in Takeo in southern Cambodia due to the worsening security situation in the country, U.N. sources said Wednesday [14 April].

Lt. Col. Yoshio Ishioroshi delivered the order as security around the camp has deteriorated since fighting broke out between Khmer Rouge guerrillas and the Phnom Pehn government last week. A Japanese U.N. volunteer and his Cambodian interpreter were shot dead last Thursday in the central provice of Kompong Thom by unidentified gunmen thought to be Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

The order affects the second contingent of 600 Japanese engineering troops, who all arrived in Cambodia by Sunday. They replaced the first group of 600 engineers, who had been involved in U.N.-led peacekeeping operations in the war-torn country since last October. The new contingent plans to start reconstructing roads and bridges later this month.

Khmer Rouge Attacks UN Peacekeepers, Blows Up Bridge

BK1404103893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1025 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 14 (AFP)—The radical Khmer Rouge attacked U.N. peacekeepers posted in northwestern Cambodia overnight, prompting a firefight that left one Malaysian injured and a Khmer Rouge guerrilla dead, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge again blew up the same Chinese-built bridge it first exploded last October, cutting off road traffic between Phnom Penh and central Kompong Thom province. The faction "used anti-tank mines to blow the bridge up" on Monday, U.N. spokesman Eric Berman said, adding that two-wheel traffic was still able to cross.

The Chinese engineering battalion serving with the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Cambodia first built the bridge, then rebuilt it after it was blown up last year.

"We are working on repairing it," Berman said.

Military reports also confirmed that on Sunday, a nearby secondary bridge—also blown up in October and also repaired by the Chinese—was exploded again.

In the overnight attack near the town of Sisophon, guerrillas raided the residence of civilian police officers from Malaysia for an hour, slightly injuring one officer in the leg, Berman said. Dutch peacekeepers repelled the attack, leaving one Khmer Rouge dead and another injured. The Malaysians were evacuated to the Dutch headquarters, Berman said.

The United Nations has decided to arm the U.N. civilian police, who have been coming under attack several times per week but until now have had to rely on the U.N. military component for protection.

"There's a general concern about the security situation," Berman said.

He gave more details of fighting between Phnom Penh forces and Khmer Rouge guerrillas in northwestern Siem Reap and central Kompong Thom provinces, which the United Nations had called on Monday an escalation of fighting.

In an early morning attack on U.N. civilian police and electoral offices in Kompong Thom province Friday, Khmer Rouge guerrillas raided the offices only to find that the workers had already left, Berman said.

The district was the same one in which Bulgarian electoral officer Nikolei Nikoleav was working last week before he responded to a plea for help from a Japanese colleague who radioed that he was being held by Khmer Rouge guerrillas. Nikoleav arrived a half hour later to find his collaegue dead of bullet wounds to the face and chest. Nikoleav fled to Phnom Penh the day before an attack on his own house. He showed AFP copies of memos he had written to U.N. headquarters warning that the Khmer Rouge was threatening to kill him.

Berman called the recent incidents "examples of what appears to be increased (Khmer Rouge) activity in traditionally troubled areas in the country."

Sihanouk Reportedly Refuses To Sign World Bank Loan

BK1404051493 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], has decided not to sign the document for UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to get loans from the World Bank to help the Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] aggressors and their puppets.

I. It was reported that on 24 March, UNTAC Chief Akashi wrote a letter to HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, asking the prince to sign a document for World Bank loans for use by Mr. Akashi and UNTAC to help the collapsing Yuon puppet regime.

II. Being impatient, Mr. Akashi sent his man, (Horand), on 27 March to see the prince on the matter.

III. The report said that HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, made the following decision:

A. HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk stressed in his reply to Mr. Akashi that he would not sign the World Bank loans. The Technical Committee and the SNC should decide on this matter at their meeting on 4 April.

B. On 2 April, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk issued a statement stressing that he would not sign the loans from the World Bank. The prince also announced that as of 28 May, that is after the UNTAC-organized election, he would resign as SNC chairman. The prince understood that the UNTAC-organized election would certainly fail since no one would accept it.

C. The report added that on 4 April, Mr. Akashi insisted on asking the prince to sign the World Bank's loans for use in helping the Yuon aggressors and their puppets. But HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk still strongly opposed this.

D. A report from Phnom Penh said that on 6 April, the prince again stressed that he would not sign the agreement on loans from the World Bank. The prince would leave Phnom Penh soon.

This clearly shows that the situation is very bad for both Yuon aggressors, their puppets, and their allies within and outside UNTAC. As Prince Norodom Sihanouk clearly concluded, this bad situation was caused by UNTAC, Yuon aggressors, and Yuon puppets.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk repeatedly declared that when the UNTAC-organized election fails, he will lead his second royal crusade for national reconciliation and salvation.

The Cambodian nation and people both inside and outside the country are satisfied with and waiting to follow the prince in this historic royal mission.

Sihanouk Travels to North Korea 14 Apr

BK1404093693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0405 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, April 14 (AFP)—Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk left for North Korea on Wednesday just as the radical Khmer Rouge also pulled out of Phnom Penh. The prince was to attend the 81st birthday celebrations of his long-time friend, President Kim Il-song, and return April 27, Royal Palace officials said.

But it was unclear when or if the Khmer Rouge would be returning. They sent a letter to the prince Tuesday saying they were leaving Phnom Penh because they felt unsafe and that they were handing over their compound adjacent to the Royal Palace to the prince.

Prince Sihanouk had no comment on the latest development before leaving on a special Air Koryo jet. His fierce North Korean bodyguards dragged away journalists who tried to ask him questions.

Radio Details 'Failure' of Western Strategy

BK1004093593 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Station commentary: "The UNTAC Leaders' Decision To Hold the Election Attests to the Shameful Failure of the Western Alliance Strategy"]

[Text] The Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] war of aggression against Cambodia has lasted for nearly 15 years. During the past 15 years, the Cambodian nation and people have held aloft the banner of patriotism and sought to surmount all obstacles on both the military and diplomatic fields until they could smash the successive strategies of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their company to annex Cambodia.

I. The Cambodian people and national resistance forces waged a people's war for 13 years until they strategically defeated the Hanoi Vietnamese authorities' strategy to annex Cambodia by force, despite the fact that they were supported by their Soviet bosses and their Warsaw Pact allies. The Yuon aggressors were compelled to kneel before the eyes of the Cambodian people and sign the Paris agreement on 23 October 1991.

II. When the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors suffered strategic defeat militarily and the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe collapsed, the Western allies were in a panic and immediately urged each other to rescue the Yuon aggressors and their puppets from their predicament. In this attempt, they have ordered their forces in UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to implement a strategy which runs totally counter to the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

The strategy of the Western allies is to join hands with the Yuon aggressors and their puppets in an attempt to smash the Cambodian national resistance forces, particularly Democratic Kampuchea [DK], through which they will be able to destroy the Cambodian nation and people and seize the interests of the Cambodian nation and people.

This is why since the signing of the Paris agreement, UNTAC leaders have not implemented the agreement. On the contrary, they have tried only to implement the sham agreement decided upon by their allies.

Entering the second phase is aimed at defeating the Khmer Rouge. Disarmament is also for the purpose of smashing the Khmer Rouge. Refusing to verify the presence of the old Yuon and allowing new Yuon to flow in are also for the purpose of defeating the Khmer Rouge. Not allowing the Supreme National Council to play a role is also in order to eliminate the DK. The fact that UNTAC does not control or supervise the five ministries is also aimed at maintaining the Yuon and their puppets and eliminating the DK.

At present, the Western alliance's strategies have suffered successive defeats. UNTAC is in trouble and the Yuon aggressors and their puppet regime are collapsing. Due to this situation, UNTAC leaders have hastily decided to go ahead with the election plan despite the fact that such an election is bad, and is opposed and condemned by the Cambodian people. UNTAC leaders think that they must legalize the Yuon puppet regime even if it might die a minute after this election farce.

Public opinion in general says that UNTAC will certainly be in trouble trying to do this.

Sihanouk Delivers New Year's Message

BK1404040493 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Traditional New Year message from His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk to the two Patriarchs and compatriots—read by announcer]

[Text] My respects to the esteemed Supreme Patriarchs of the two Buddhist sects and all venerable Buddhist monks; dear brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and compatriots:

On the auspicious occasion of the traditional Khmer New Year, the Year of the Cock, B.E. 2537, and on this festive day, we, the royal consort and I, Samdech Euv [prince father], Samdech Ta [prince grandfather], Samdech Ta Tout [prince great-grandfather] Norodom Sihanouk, are greatly honored and very happy to pray for the Triple Gems [Buddha, Buddha's teachings, Buddhist clergy], all gods, including gods of the past years and this new year, the souls of former Khmer kings and forefathers, and all sacred objects which have always protected the Cambodian motherland to please bless our adored and beloved sacred land with peace, security, and happiness in a spirit of fraternity. Particularly, I would like to beg all of you to bless our two Supreme Patriarchs and all venerable monks with the five blessings—longevity, fair complexion, happiness, healthiness, and wisdom—so that they can continue fulfilling their holy mission to publicize the nonviolent precepts to the Cambodian people everywhere, both inside and outside the country, so that Cambodia in the Year of the Cock is peaceful, harmonized, and reconciled and all are united to jointly restore and rebuild our Angkor motherland, thus making it as prosperous and glorious as in the past.

Please bless my esteemed and beloved brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and compatriots with sufficient rainfall in this year's rainy season so that our farmers and those earning their living in agricultural field can achieve ample products with a high enough price. Please bless us with peace, progress, happiness, good luck, and good judgement together with the spirit of nonviolence and precious national reconciliation so that all your children, young and old and male and female alike, can successfully fulfill their rights and freedoms for the noble interests of Cambodia as a whole.

I would like to call on the two esteemed Supreme Patriarchs and all venerable Buddhist monks and all esteemed and beloved brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and compatriots to please accept the best wishes from me and my royal consort.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 13 April, the Year of the Cock, B.E. 2537

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

Heng Samrin Delivers New Year's Message

BK1404090393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 13 Apr 93

[New Year's message to compatriots from Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] My respects to all venerable Buddhist monks, the prince head of state, princes, excellencies, madames, ladies, gentlemen, and all my beloved compatriots:

Today, all Cambodian people welcome the traditional New Year, the Year of the Cock, Buddhist Era [BE] 2537, with pride, satisfaction, joy, and confidence in the peace process in Cambodia. With active assistance from UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], the United Nations, the international community, and the Cambodian factions and people, the peace process has reached a stage in which active election campaigns are being carried out throughout Cambodia, an important step toward the planned election.

This is a historic day for our Cambodian people and our beautiful Angkor motherland. Thanks to the support and assistance of the compatriots, the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] were able to realize their historic mission in the past over 14 years—that is, they revived everything lost during the period from 1975 to 1979 and enabled our country to progress as a nation toward achieving development and genuine peace and security.

The Year of the Monkey, BE 2536, has passed. But the past year historically recorded the great heroic efforts of our compatriots throughout the country and those compatriots living abroad who have actively contributed to the cause of our beloved motherland.

On this traditional New Year, on behalf of the CPP and SOC Government and in my own name, I would like to express gratitude to all government officials, combatants, workers, peasants, intellectuals, students, venerable monks, and all compatriots for making all kinds of sacrifices and mobilizing all wisdom and physical, moral, and material strength to overcome all obstacles for the cause of the motherland and people. Especially, I extend my best regards to all families of the fallen and disabled combatants for their noble sacrifice made for this noble cause. At the same time, I extend greetings and thanks to all gentlemen representing the diplomatic corps and international organizations in Cambodia, as well as all UNTAC forces both civilian and military for giving both moral and material support and assistance to the cause of our Cambodian people.

In implementing the Paris peace agreement in the past more than a year, despite all kinds of obstacles, our Cambodian people still hope and are always confident that peace will certainly prevail soon. The genocidal Pol Pot clique, which has refused to implement the agreement and join the election, together with a number of parties within the genocidal clique's tripartite alliance which have attempted to sabotage the election, will not be able to vanquish the peace-loving and national reconciliation forces.

The CPP has, from the beginning to the present, sincerely implemented and is implementing this agreement. It is deplorable that the genocidal Pol Pot clique and a number of its accomplices have attempted and are trying to create a complex situation with the aim of destroying the election through all forms of action, particularly military activities, terrorism, and sabotage, as they did in the past.

However, based on everything we have achieved together with UNTAC, we may conclude that a neutral political atmosphere is now available to hold a free and fair election. The 20 political parties have already signed up for the election and are launching campaigns for the coming election in May.

Availing myself of this occasion, I appeal to all political parties and all factions to join and support the election process because this election is in line with the aspirations of the people and interests of our nation. Opposing the election is to oppose the interests of our nation and people and their desire for peace.

In the current situation, every Cambodian citizen should enhance his vigilance in the tasks to ensure security and defend social order; to strive jointly to stop in a timely manner all deceitful, slanderous, and distorting schemes by a handful of elements aimed at ruining the present social atmosphere; and to see clearly these elements' true colors and desire to drag on the bloody war and prolong the Cambodian people's misery.

On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the CPP and SOC Government, I appeal to CPP members at all levels, state authorities in all sectors, social organizations, parents and guardians of children, and all citizens to see the light of the genuine peace that the Cambodian people have strived for the past over two decades to achieve. Do not fall for the propaganda of those liars who will do anything to destroy our nation.

I am confident that our citizens who know what is good will certainly give justice to the CPP. One ballot can decide the fate of us all. It is a ballot to decide the life or death of our motherland. Therefore, the ballots that our people will cast for the CPP are ballots to save our lives. This is because it was the CPP that toppled the brutal genocidal Pol Pot regime, revived our nation, and prevented the return of the Polpotists over the past more than 14 years. Electing the CPP means selecting the group that can prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, that can ensure the ownership and achievements made in the past 14 years, and that can lead us toward progress. That is, the CPP is the only party that can forever ensure our people's survival, ownership, careers, and rights and freedoms.

We would like to pray to the god of this New Year, the Year of the Cock, to please guide our Cambodian people toward genuine peace and happiness.

May the prince father and his royal consort enjoy the five blessings—longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and recuperative powers.

May the Supreme Patriarchs of the two Buddhist sects and all venerable monks enjoy good health and wisdom in this new year in order to continue upholding and maintaining Buddhism as a shade for Buddhist followers throughout the country.

May all the compatriots inside and outside the country enjoy good health and long life in order to jointly strive to bring peace and happiness to our motherland.

At the same time, I extend best wishes to all compatriots who have just returned home. May this New Year bring stability, new life, and new happiness to all families.

May all excellencies, gentlemen, madames, and ladies in the UNTAC, diplomatic corps, and international and various other organizations enjoy good health and success in fulfilling their international tasks on our soil.

May the New Year bring new hope and peace.

Indonesia

Commentary Views Cambodian Polls, Khmer Rouge

BK1404085993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The six-week-long Cambodian election campaign, which began last week as part of the Paris accord signed in 1991, shows that Cambodian voters who will cast their votes on 23 May agree with the universal principle that an internationally supervised election is the only way to solve the problem when there are several governments in a country.

The Khmer Rouge refusal to recognize such a universal principle is indeed regrettable even though we must remember the fact that orthodox communist parties prefer to adopt the sphere of influence doctrine, namely, the doctrine adopted by Stalin soon after the end of World War II. The doctrine concerns which influence is stronger in a country when it is surrounded by bigger and more powerful neighbors. In the eyes of the Khmer Rouge, next month's election in Cambodia will completely place the country within the Vietnamese sphere of influence. This is an incorrect view which reflects the Khmer Rouge wish to use the sphere of influence doctrine as the way to solve the current Cambodian problem. The Khmer Rouge believe that next month's election is wrong because it will be supervised by foreign observers.

The Khmer Rouge appear ready not only to boycott, but also to try to foil the 23 May election. If the Khmer Rouge want to boycott the election, it must be remembered that they are only one of about 20 political parties contesting the election. However, if the Khmer Rouge decide to sabotage the election by launching terrorist attacks against unarmed voters, that will mean the return of civil war in Cambodia. However, if civil war breaks out again, things are different from what happened between 1979 and 1989 because the Khmer Rouge have now decided to adopt a confrontational posture against the United Nations as seen by the murders of UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia personnel. Things will get worse when the Khmer Rouge are unsuccessful in thwarting the election, which is a better option than any other means to solve the Cambodian problem. Common sense, from whatever quarter, will definitely endorse implementation of the Paris accord for resolution of the Cambodian problem.

Air Force Chief Views Hawk Fighter Purchase

BK1004054493 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0327 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 10 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Indonesian Air Force came to the idea of buying 100 British Aerospace Hawk fighters in 1986, the force's chief-of-staff air Marshal Sibun said.

Talking to newsmen after a ceremony marking the force's 47th anniversary at the Halim Perdanakusumah Air Base here Friday, Sibun said he evolved the idea when he was an assistant in charge of planning to the Air Force chief-of-staff. But the idea was not reported to President Suharto until Sibun himself became Air Force chief.

When I was appointed as Air Force chief-of-staff, I reported it to the president and I also gave directives for the purchase of six Hawk squadrons, Sibun said.

Sibun will transfer his post to Vice Air Marshal Rilo Pambudi Saturday. President Suharto installed Pambudi as Sibun's successor a few days ago.

The outgoing Air Force chief said so far only 24 Hawk fighters had been purchased with delivery to take place in the near future. Of this number 19 would be twin-seat fighters (Hawk 200).

He said the plan to purchase the 100 Hawk fighters was reported in the media after the British news agency REUTER filed a story quoting a statement by Research and Technology Minister B.J. Habibie.

Of the six squadrons, the purchase of only one could be realised. The number of planes in each squadron is 20, Sibun said.

Commenting on why Habibie had said that Indonesia would like to buy 100 fighters, Sibun said that Habibie might have thought that one squadron consisted of only 16 fighters.

According to Sibun, the idea to buy Hawk fighters was based on the consideration that they were well-suited to train new pilots and for conditions prevailing in indonesia.

In addition, the Hawks could also be used in air-to-ground attacks in cases of emergency, he said. In fact the Hawks were made especially for air-to-ground assaults, he added.

Touching on the possibility of an armament race among ASEAN member countries, Sibun said that there was no reason to believe this would happen following Indonesia's purchase of the Hawk fighters.

There is no need to fear such a possibility. It is normal for any Air Force in the world not to want lagging behind in technology, he said.

Sibun also pointed out Indonesia was not harbouring any intention of attacking another country. We are a good guy. So there is no need to make undue speculations about the fact that Indonesia is buying new fighter-planes, he said.

Philippines

Ramos To Make State Visit to Beijing Apr 25-30

HK1404081093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0730 GMT 14 April 93

[Text] Manila, April 14 (AFP)—Philippine President Fidel Ramos is to make a six-day state visit to China starting April 25 to bolster bilateral ties, the presidential palace and the Chinese ambassador said here Wednesday [14 April]. Ramos is scheduled to hold talks with President Jiang Zemin, Prime Minister Li Peng and the chairman of the National People's Congress Qiao Shi on the political and security situation in East Asia, as well as world developments, a palace statement said. He will seek to encourage Chinese investment in the Philippines and look into areas for further exchange of technology appropriate for both countries, the palace added.

Chinese ambassador to Manila Huang Guifang told a foreign press luncheon here that Ramos's visit would boost ties between the two nations "especially our trade relationship." Trade between Manila and Beijing, who established diplomatic relations in 1975, reached 365 million dollars last year, up 20 percent from 1991, Huang said. There are also at least 350 Filipinos working in Beijing as hotel managers, musicians and professionals, he added.

Huang said the Philippines's largest beer and food conglomerate, San Miguel Corp., has already set up manufacturing plants in the Guangzhou and Fujian provinces and that negotiations are underway for the setting up of a Filipino ice cream facility. Several Filipino investors, including ethnic Chinese-Filipino real estate magnate Henry Sy, have also expressed interest in putting their money in China, he said.

The Philippine leader's itinerary includes Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. He will meet top officials of China's state corporations and other businessmen, and he will visit special economic zones and township-village enterprises.

PRC Envoy: PRC Opposes Spratlys Resort Plan

HK1404100893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Manila, April 14 (AFP)—China is against a Philippine plan to turn two islets in the disputed Spratly Islands into a diving resort but allayed fears it would use military force to back its claims, Beijing's envoy said Wednesday.

Ambassador Huang Guifang said China would also oppose any moves to "internationalize" the issue through the involvement of countries other than the five claimants or bringing the dispute before the United Nations.

"I have approached the (Filipino) officials concerned to express our view," Huang told Manila-based foreign journalists. "The Chinese position is quite well known."

Huang said Beijing adheres to an accord among the five claimants calling for a "joint exploration" of the Spratlys, a chain of islets in the South China Sea believed sitting atop vast deposits of oil and natural gas.

The territories are being claimed wholly or in part by China, Malaysia, Taiwan, Brunei, Vietnam and the Philippines and some analysts have warned the area could be a potential flashpoint for conflict. All, except Brunei, have stationed troops on the islands.

Manila has voiced plans to develop two of the eight islets it claims into a diving resort but has not made any concrete moves so far. China, which is claiming the Spratlys as a whole, has protested Malaysia's development of an islet into a tourist resort two years ago.

"We want to solve this problem in a peaceful way. We don't want to advocate a military settlement because China considers itself an equal party in the international community," Huang said, adding that the involvement of other nations "will only make things complicated."

The ambassador did not mention any particular country, but debate has been going on in Manila on whether the Philippine claims in the Spratlys are covered under a 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States in case of an armed attack.

NAFTA Will Not Shift Investment to Mexico

HK1404022093 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 13 Apr 93 p 2

[Report by Benjamin Cruz]

[Text] Contrary to common fears, the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will not necessarily relocate investments from the Philippines to Mexico.

While Mexico will concededly enjoy a tariff advantage over the Philippines, this advantage is not only insignificant; it can be easily wiped out by the lower prices of Philippine goods.

According to a study conducted by the Department of Trade and Industry submitted to the House of Representatives, over 60 percent of Mexico's exports to the U.S. are already at a low of 2 percent. In textiles and apparel, which comprised the Philippines' top exports, the duty is 6 percent.

All told, the average tariff on Mexican exports to the U.S. is already at a low of 4 percent.

"NAFTA, therefore," the study observed, "will not result in a dramatic drop in U.S. duties on Mexican imports."

Presently, more than half, or about 54 percent, of Philippine exports to the U.S. already enter free of duty. Of the remaining 46 percent that were levied duties, valued at $1.16 billion, about $1.11 billion were in direct competition with Mexican products and had tariff duties greater than 4 percent ad valorem.

These "sensitive" products include textiles and apparel with a value of $1.011 billion and with a duty of 18 percent; TV receivers and picture tubes, $34 million with 5 percent duty; bags, $32 million at 10.5 percent duty; footwear, $14 million at 18.7 percent; dress gloves, 11 percent at 14 percent; frozen pineapple concentrate, $8 million at 6.2 percent; and dolls, $1 million at 12 percent.

The NAFTA, a trade accord signed by U.S., Canada and Mexico last December, is scheduled for implementation on Jan. 1, 1994. Its key feature that continues to scare developing countries largely dependent on U.S. markets is the staged elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers among the three countries.

There have been talks that a number of Japanese and European firms are starting to set up factories in Mexico, which provides cheap labor like the Philippines, to ensure that their products would have easy access to North America, considered to be the single biggest market in the world.

The study, a result of months of consultations and workshops by the DTI and private sector representatives, also noted that except for dress gloves and certain categories of textiles and apparel, "the price advantage of the Philippines is significant enough to make up for the tariff advantage that Mexico will enjoy."

The Philippines has generally a much lower cost of production for luggage, bags and handbags, and footwear than Mexico, a price differential ranging from $2 to $120.

Peace Panel Said Meeting MNLF in Indonesia

HK1404063393 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] A top-level government panel headed by National Unification Commission Chairperson Haydee Yorac reportedly secretly went to Indonesia to continue negotiations with the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF]. According to the report, MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari, who is now in Jeddah, will meet with a peace panel composed of Congressman Eduardo Ermita and Congressman (Nuri Chaapat).

It is not known whether there will be formal negotiations between the two sides. Among the possible topics to be discussed by the negotiating groups in Jakarta is the MNLF's demand to oversee 13 regions in the south as stated in the 1976 Tripoli Agreement. The MNLF is the largest rebel group in the country.

The government panel's departure was hidden allegedly to prevent conflicts with communist rebels who had earlier demanded that formal peace talks be held in other countries.

Government Contradicts Report

HK1404092893 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Malacanang has strongly contradicted reports that National Unification Commission Chairperson Haydee Yorac secretly left the country to meet with Moro National Liberation Front chairman Nur Misuari for the second part of the exploratory peace talks. Presidential spokesperson Annabel Abaya today said she had just spoken with Yorac, adding that the latter personally belittled reports she went to Jakarta. Abaya further said Yorac told her that she does not have any intention of going to Jakarta to talk to Misuari.

Moreover, Abaya said Malacanang has no knowledge of a high-level group going to Jakarta to meet with Misuari. She added that even Congressman Eduardo Ermita, who was allegedly with the negotiating group, was in Batangas when President Fidel V. Ramos inaugurated a new ship-building facility in Bauan.

Defense Secretary: No 'April Surprise' Yet

HK1404091293 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato de Villa verified during an interview with Radio Patrol in Batangas that there has been no major incident that will indicate that the [Muslim secessionist's] April surprise has already begun. He also said the April surprise will not affect the peace negotiations between the National Unification Commission [NUC] and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF].

Earlier, President Ramos revealed an alleged plan by candidates, who lost in the recent Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao [ARMM] elections, and Muslim extremists to wreak havoc in Mindanao.

According to De Villa, the military has not even sent a major deployment to the region and several contingents of the Philippine Marines earlier deployed to monitor the ARMM elections have already been withdrawn from the region. The defense secretary also said the NUC continues to wait for MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari's response to their proposal to hold peace talks within the country.

Thailand

Commerce Minister Promises 'Sincere' IPR Actions

BK1304154993 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Following the U.S. annoucement late last week placing Thailand on the priority watch-list of foreign countries facing U.S. trade retaliation, Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon has called on the United States to think about the four categories of facts which reflect the sincere intention of the Chuan Likphai government. In a recent move, the Thai Government has announced an intention to take serious actions against violations of copyright and intellectual property rights. Uthai stressed that seven laws altogether will be enforced in the campaign. They are: the Copyrights Act, the Consumer Protection Act, the Tape and Television Material Business Control Act, the Price Fixing and Antimonopoly Act, the Import and Export Control Act, the Revolutionary Party Announcement No. 285, and Article 137 of the Criminal Code. The Commerce Ministry will use these laws as tools to control trade and manufacturing of poducts involving copyrights. The ministry will monitor all kinds of trade in the country; not only the tape and video businesses—which had been the concern during the campaign launched earlier in the year.

Concerning the tape and video business, it is believed Thailand's major companies will certainly be affected by this measure if they continue to ignore copyright law enforcement.

Outlines 'Earnest' Actions

BK1404135693 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The government will take serious action to protect copyrights by bringing up protection measures for cabinet consideration tomorrow. The U.S. announcement on trade retaliation, which states that Thailand is among the 44 countries to face immediate investigation, has caused the Commerce Ministry to quickly solve the problems that could affect markets for Thai products. Today, Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon said that he still wants the United States to perform a review after Thailand gave assurances that it will take more concrete actions to protect copyrights.

[Begin Uthai recording] The fact that we have taken earnest actions via legal and practical measures makes us feel that they should sufficiently justify removal from the PFC [previous acronym in English] list. This is how I feel. If these actions are not sufficient then I can only conclude that the United States wants to bully us. It would be useless to bully a small country like Thailand whose trade volume with the United States is small when compared with India, Taiwan, and other major countries. We have taken such serious actions. I want to know what else they want. It is not as if we taken no new actions. [end recording]

Deputy Premier Details 'Serious' Efforts

BK1404071493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The government will resort to all relevant laws for the suppression of every form of copyright violation before the United States decides to use Article 301 as a trade retaliatory measure against Thailand late this month.

Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak told reporters that the Thai Government has informed its U.S. counterpart about the measures and operation plans against copyright infringements, which are being used to wipe out the illegal practices. He said:

[Begin recording] [Suphachai] The cabinet has adopted a resolution to enforce all existing laws for the suppression of the violation of the Copyright Protection Act so as to put an end to the production of counterfeited products, which is harmful to Thailand's economy and can lead to the suspension of U.S. trade assistance. Considering the adverse consequences on various businesses in the country, we will make serious efforts to suppress copyright infringements. The U.S. side has been informed of the cabinet's resolution, since this is the top priority issue for the U.S. Government. We are revising some regulations in connection with the Parmaceutical Patent Act.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think that the said actions will draw U.S. sympathy?

[Suphachai] I am not sure. In the past, we failed to comply with the agreements we made with them. We have just formed our government and are expediting our efforts in this area. We only hope that they will understand our position. They will have to separate the past from the present. We cannot be held responsible for what happened in the past. We want, however, to clearly prove our intention. The issue involves both the U.S. Government and Congress. But only the U.S. Congress can make the decision to impose trade retaliatory measures against any country. We are trying our best. Our bargaining is based on sincerity, not an attempt to buy more time. We want to prove that we are making serious efforts. But we need some time because our government is still new. So far, we have done quite a bit in this regard. [end recording]

Paper Views Police IPR Crackdown

BK1404011093 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Apr 93 p 1

[From the "Post Database—The BANGKOK POST's weekly Information Technology Section"]

[Text] With pressure mounting from the US to crackdown on intellectual property rights [IPR] violations, two teams of the Crime Suppression Police last Thursday raided four shops that were suspected of selling illegal computer software and manuals.

A total of over 1,000 manuals and almost 1,000 software packages, worth more than 1 million baht, were seized in these raids. This was the second such raid here. Last July, a Crime Suppression team raided two shops for allegedly violating the copyright law.

The police teams raided a total of five outlets at Phanthip Plaza and a store at the Mah Bunkhrong shopping centre last week. At Phanthip Plaza two outlets of ABC (Thailand), a shop and an inventory room of Q-Soft Comptuer and Magicsoft were raided, while the Software Center at Mah Bunkhrong was targetted on the grounds that they were all selling pirated software and manuals.

The raids were carried out on the initiative of Suchit Aphiradi, an adviser to Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon, and the Business Software Alliance (BSA), a US-based organisation committed to fighting piracy of commercial software worldwide.

At Phanthip Plaza, over 1,000 manuals and almost 1,000 software packages that allegedly infringed the copyrights of six software companies which were members of the BSA—Microsoft, WordPerfect, Novell, Lotus, Aldus and Autodesk—were seized, while at the Software Center less than 20 software packages and a manual were seized.

Ruthon Nopphakun, a local lawyer acting on behalf of the BSA told POST DATABASE that most of the manuals and software seized were copies of Microsoft products.

He added that BSA had sent out an investigation team prior to the raids to select the target shops.

Last year, the Economic and Financial Crime Suppression Police raided two stores Book Chest, and Siam Drugs and Micro Mart for allegedly selling illegal software and manuals of BSA member companies. That was the first such case here and was also initiated by the BSA.

However, the BSA struck a compromise with Book Chest and Siam Drugs and Micro Mart, settling the cases out of court.

Last week's raids, led by an adviser to the Commerce Minister, were said to be action by the Thai government to try to ease the pressure being mounted on Thailand from the United States regarding the violation of copyrights.

Recently, the US-based International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) recommended that Thailand be placed under Section 306 of the United States Trade Act 1988, which would put it under tighter scrutiny than before.

The IIPA estimates that software piracy in Thailand alone amounts to some US$ 49 million, which, however, is still far lower than that of Taiwan ($585 million) and Korea ($315 million).

Prasong: Engineers To Remain in Cambodia

BK0904140593 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Speaking with reporters after paying his respects to Privy Councilor General Prem Tinsulanon on Songkran day, Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, foreign minister, said the Thai engineering task force in Cambodia under UN supervision will continue to perform their mission until the UN withdraws from that country. In any event, a pullout of Thai soldiers after the general elections in Cambodia will have to take place after consultation among Thai Government officials.

[Begin Prasong recording] A government will come into existence after the election. I do not want our soldiers who are not connected with the UN force to perform their duties because the issue of their safety could arise. If there is fighting, our soldiers could be dragged into it unnecessarily because we have played an impartial role. I will study the situation closely and make a recommendation to the government. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Army Commander General Wimon Wongwanit says:

[Begin Wimon recording, in progress] ...assist them so that they can live peacefully and stop fighting. But if it is felt that we have completed our mission then we will return home, because we fear fighting may resume.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Wimon] No, we will return because we have completed our mission. But if the government feels that our assistance should continue, then the army has no objection. However, I feel that we have given enough assistance already. [end recording]

Prasong Questions Cambodian Trade Allegations

BK1404020693 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Apr 93 p A1

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri has questioned the continued allegations by Untac that timber is still being shipped out from Cambodia to Thailand.

Prasong said it was unfair to lay such charges without evidence to support them. He challenged the UN peacekeepers to hand over whatever evidence Untac has to

Thai authorities to prove allegations that Cambodian logs are still being transported through the Thai-Cambodian border.

Cambodia's Supreme National Council imposed the UN-backed log ban in all Cambodian areas early this year to conserve the remaining forest resources there.

Businessmen Urge Government Cambodia Strategy

BK1404015293 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Apr 93 p 13

[Text] Thai businessmen, seeing a worsening investment climate in Cambodia, have called on the Thai Government to step in to help form a business strategy for Thai companies that want to do business there.

This was the conclusion of a discussion between BANGKOK POST reporters and businessmen with investments in Cambodia, including Somphot Inthranukun, executive vice president of Siam Commercial Bank; Udom Tantiprasongchai, managing director of Cambodia International Airlines; Anek Sichiwachat, president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents and a shareholder of S.K. Air; and Suphachai Werapuchong, a major shareholder in the Phnom Penh Royal Hotel.

They said the investment climate in Cambodia has been in a state of confusion, which is damaging its credibility, and as Thailand is considered the most suitable country to assist Cambodia, the Government should do something.

Firms have been investing in Cambodia without proper direction, and the investment climate is not favourable.

Among the difficulties are the administration of the country, the poor acceptance of the local currency, and political instability.

The country's land transactions can be authorised by many ministries, thus making it confusing.

Land ownership is, to many investors, risky and is expected to be a big headache for the Government.

"Past governments in Cambodia never claimed land ownership like other socialist countries so there is not a clear picture about the real ownership of some land, particularly of that belonging to people who were forced into the countryside during the Khmer Rouge regime," said Mr. Somphot.

The problem is growing more serious because some land has been traded many times.

Thailand is in the best position to assist in business development, they said, and should set up an organisation to harmonise business participation in Cambodia.

"It's not that we want to take over the country, but we share a long history with Cambodia," said Mr Anek.

It was only during the Gen Chatchai Chunhawan administration that a system to expand into the country was set up, but it no longer exists.

The Government, in helping Cambodia, should start with infrastructure development, then the private sector could follow, especially in agriculture.

However, large companies cannot easily invest in large-scale projects in Cambodia due to the problems of the country.

This has created the chance for small companies to invest in Cambodia, and many have done so, but are too greedy and are destroying the image of all Thai investors.

Such conditions allow no-name companies to exploit that country, and the Thai Government should step in to stop them.

"There needs to be adjustment by both sides because Cambodia is not used to doing business in an open society. They usually feel the Thai side is too slow, while the Thai side finds it very difficult to conduct feasibility studies there due to the total lack of statistics in that country," said Mr Somphot.

Meanwhile, he said, the bank earns almost nothing from currency exchange. The local currency is not accepted in the market due to its rapid depreciation, so its banking system cannot develop.

Four years ago, 800 riel were worth a dollar but now it is 4,000 riel. Banks stopped accepting lier because the Thai baht and US dollar are well-accepted.

Individual borrowing is still small and is mainly for house repairs, thus leaving only a small spread to finance operating costs.

Bank notes issued by the central bank will not return because the market does not accept them and there are not many deposits of local currency in the bank to return to the central bank.

Even taxes are charged in dollars, not riel, so if there is a ban on the use of foreign currency in Cambodia, everything will collapse.

Another problem is that the country appears to be run by several factions instead of a single administrative body.

This has resulted in the lack of an effective system to promote domestic manufacturing and trade. The country has no effective customs checkpoints, thus allowing foreign products to flow almost freely into the country.

While Cambodian government has welcomed foreign investment with promises of protection, it is very confusing because any minister is authorised to approve investment projects.

"Thus, most investors tend to engage in short-term projects and are ready to withdraw," said Mr Udom. A rumor that the Khmer Rouge would attack Phnom Penh made shops close for a day, reflecting the people's lack of confidence in their safety, he said.

Government Wants Scientists To Return

BK1304090893 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 13 Apr 93 p 13

[Text] Dr. Pricha Musikun, deputy minister of science, technology, and environment, talked about a project to bring home Thai scientists from the United States and Canada. He said those people would be of great use to local universities in terms of training, organizing symposia, and conducting research work. The Ministry of Science will cooperate with the Damrong Latthaphiphat Foundation to push ahead the project, with help from the private sector. The Ministry of Science will set up a committee to group together all agencies that depend on technology.

Dr. Sin Anurat, president of the Association of Thai Students in the United States and Canada, said that there are about 8,000 Thai scientists in the United States who are members of the association. One-fourth of this group wants to return to Thailand. They would like the government to provide them with clear information on what they should do in Thailand and what their income would be. Also there should be flexibility in determining their role as most of them are already over 45, and they are willing to return home to share their expertise and knowledge for national development.

Deputy Premier: 'Red Tape' Hampering AFTA

BK1404022293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Apr 93 p A2

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchphak yesterday blamed red tape and lack of cooperation among government agencies for what he called the delay in preparing the country for the Asean free trade zone.

Suphachai said he was worried about Thailand's slow pace of readying itself for the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta). Asean (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) groups Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei.

The deputy prime minister, who chairs the committee on international economics cooperation, cited tariff reductions as one example of why Thailand still lagged behind the schedule on the path to Afta.

He said Thailand had yet to reform its import tariff structure.

The deputy prime minister did not elaborate on what he called Thailand's slow pace towards the full implementation of Afta.

"I want Thailand to speed up the process (of transforming itself for Afta)," Suphachai said.

"The delay is caused by red tape. Moreover, government agencies concerned do not cooperate [with] each other."

Suphachai also dismissed local businessmen's criticism that Afta would benefit Singapore the most at the expense of Thailand which initiated the trade forum.

The island republic has become a developed country which could stand economically on its own, Suphachai said. He said the island state would instead bring benefits to other Afta partners.

Afta was proposed by the Anan I Government. Its full implmentation was set for 15 years with graduated tariff cuts beginning in January to prepare for the free trade forum.

However, the scheme has been plagued by protectionist lobbies in several Asean countries.

Afta aims to reduce tariffs on all manufactured goods and processed agricultural products traded within Asean with the goal of attracting investment and tapping growing wealth in a market of 320 million people.

Paper: Saudi Prince's Visit 'Positive Step'

BK1404090193 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 14 Apr 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Visit to Thailand of the Saudi Prince"]

[Text] Saudi Prince Muhammad bin-Nawwab bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and his party arrived at Don Muang Airport on the afternoon of 11 April. They were welcomed by senior Thai officials, including Interior Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Interior Permanent Secretary Ari Wongaraya, and Police Director General Sawat Amonwiwat.

Although the Saudi prince is not a guest of the Thai Government, he is visiting at the invitation of the interior minister. He was accorded a full reception and complete security by uniformed and plainclothes policemen from the airport to his hotel in the heart of Bangkok.

The significance of the prince's visit is that he represents the Saudi Government and royal family after having been informed of the Thai judicial process and the resulting inability of the Thai Government to bring to Saudi Arabia Kriangkrai Techamong, the thief who stole Saudi royal family jewelry.

Since the government of Chuan Likphai came to power six months ago, it has reviewed all the criminal cases involving Saudi victims that occurred during the terms of the previous four Thai governments.

Recently Interior Minister Gen. Chawalit summed up and clarified the investigation of the 1989 and 1990 murders of Saudi diplomats. Saudi Charge Muhammad Sa'id Khujah was also present at the event and acknowledged the investigation results.

The Thai side will continue with investigation of the cases involving the theft of Saudi royal jewelry and the disappearance of Saudi businessman Muhammad al-Ruwayli. Several suspects have been arrested in connection with the jewelry theft, and a police lieutenant colonel has been a suspect in the case of a missing Saudi businessman.

The Saudi prince will receive another briefing on the jewelry theft and the missing Saudi businessman before he departs Bangkok. He may also have a chance to meet Kriangkrai. All of this should be a positive step for Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

It is felt that the Saudi prince's visit is a good omen that will surely lead to resumption of normal relations between Saudi Arabia and Thailand.

Committee To Discuss Border With Malaysia

BK1304012993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Thailand will raise the problem of border demarcation with Malaysia when senior officials of the two countries meet here on Thursday and Friday, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Interior Niphon Bunyaphattharo said.

The meeting of the Committee to Review Border Co-operation (CRBC) will be chaired by Thailand's Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Pracha Khunakasem and his Malaysian counterpart Ahmad Kamil Jaafar.

The meeting will discuss ways of removing obstacles to various aspects of border co-operation, including customs and immigration procedures as well as border demarcation, Mr Niphon said.

The question of border demarcation is at the centre of an ongoing dispute over the alleged intrusion into Malaysia on February 15 by six Thai customs officials, observers noted.

The officials are accused of seizing palm oil and other goods from two Thais who had smuggled them into the Malaysian border town of Pedang Besar. Thailand, however, maintains that the officials were in Thai territory.

Mr Jaafar was quoted as telling reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday that the discussion would cover this incident.

Malaysia reportedly wants to sort out any misinterpretations that may have arisen as a result of old treaties signed between Britain and Thailand, and is also seeking a review of all treaties signed since 1947.

Besides border demarcation, Thai officials, on an informal basis, may also ask their Malaysian counterparts to review some recently announced traffic regulations, Mr Niphon said.

These include requirements for vehicles to be insured, for motorcyclists and pillion riders to wear safety helmets and a ban against cars that have tinted windows, he added.

Traffic regulations are beneficial to all road users but Thais may need some time to adapt to them, he said.

Mr Niphon is also director of the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre (SBPAC).

He is organising a meeting in May for local authorities of both sides to discuss ways of improving co-operation.

The meeting will bring together officials in charge of customs, immigration, as well as representatives from the police, army, the SBPAC and the local business community.

"All governmental agencies should work closer for the benefit of the public," he said.

So far there has been a lack of coordination and co-operation, for instance the occasional failure to inform one another of any change in standing agreements, he added.

13 Illegal Immigrants Arrested in Raid on NGO

BK1304011593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Immigration Department police raided an international non-governmental organisation [NGO] for refugees and arrested 13 alleged illegal immigrants, according to a refugee source.

The source said that shortly after 2 p.m. last Friday, an immigration police truck arrived at the office on Soi Inthamara 35, which is funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], to see to the social and medical needs of the so-called people of concern to the UNHCR.

During a search of the building by five immigration officers they rounded up 13 alleged illegal aliens, of Burmese, Iranian, Afghan and other Asian nationalities.

Two NGO officials were also allegedly apprehended when they protested against the arrest, claiming that the foreigners were protected by the United Nations. The two were later released, but the 13 others were taken to the immigration detention centre for questioning.

A refugee source said that the crackdown was aimed at Burmese students who had refused to be interned in the Pak Tho camp in Ratchaburi Province.

Vietnam

Foreign Ministry Rejects POW 'Fabrication'

BK1304144393 Hanoi VNA in English 1408 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 13—The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry today categorically rejected as 'ill-intentioned fabrication' the report carried by THE NEW YORK TIMES on April 12 which quoted a newly-found secret document in Moscow as saying that 700 American prisoners might still be kept in Vietnam after the end of the war in 1973. The spokesman emphasized once again that Vietnam has returned to the United States all its prisoners after the signing of the 1973 Paris agreement on Vietnam.

The statement continues: 'According to documents published by the US Department of Defense and the US State Department and authenticated by the US Senate Select Committee on MIA/POW issue in its latest report dated January 13, 1993, at the end of the war 1,172 American servicemen were reported missing and their fate was unaccounted for in Indochina, 798 of which in Vietnam. Through its efforts to cooperate with the US side in the humanitarian spirit, Vietnam has so far returned to the US side more than 500 remains and cooperated with the US Government in investigating 70 'live sighting' reports and 135 other cases involving unclear dossiers. The results show no evidence of any American being kept living in freedom in Vietnam. Realities prove that the report carried by THE NEW YORK TIMES is completely groundless. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Officials Question Document

BK1404074493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0730 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Hanoi, April 14 (AFP)—Hanoi hammered Wednesday at the credibility of a document indicating that it witheld U.S. prisoners of war, and expressed hope the uproar would not derail progress toward normalization with the United States.

The Defense Ministry said General Tran Van Quang, who was identified as deputy chief of staff and author of the September 1972 document, did not acceed to the post until late the following year.

"In 1972, General Quang was political commissar of the fourth military region," in central Vietnam, said Colonel Phan Khac Hai, editor-in-chief of the the Army newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN.

"In that capacity, he was in no position to make such a report."

In the document, Quang reportedly informs the Communist Party Politburo that the military was holding 1,205 American prisoners, though it was officially acknowledging only 368.

U.S. presidential envoy John Vessey will seek to discuss the document directly with Quang when he visits Hanoi on Sunday and Monday, a U.S. Defense Department spokesman in Washington said.

Quang, a former deputy defense minister who is now in semi-retirement as head of the Vietnamese Veterans Association, could not be reached Wednesday for comment. It was impossible to independently document his military record, with bureaucrats at the Institute for Military History claiming they had no material in their archives concerning the three-star general.

The POW document was reportedly discovered by a U.S. university researcher in Russian archives in January and handed over to Washington by Moscow last week.

A Vietnamese Foreign Ministry official suggested Wednesday that the the surfacing of the document may have been deliberately timed to derail prospects for rapid normalization of ties between Vietnam and the United States.

"Whenever we see expectations rise that the United States might take some appropriate action, there are always rumors and fabrications that come up," said Ha Huy Thong, deputy director of the ministry's Americas department.

Thong said he hope the disputed document would not impede the steady progress toward normalization made by Washington and Hanoi over the past few years.

"I hope even more progress can be made during the visit of General Vessey," he said. "We are willing to discuss this issue with him."

The document unearthed in Moscow was in Russian, reportedly the translation of a Vietnamese document.

"If they don't have any Vietnamese text, I can tell you for sure this is a fabrication," Thong said, comparing it to a 1991 photo of purported American prisoners that turned out to be a montage clipped from a Russian magazine.

"I don't want to speculate about who might be responsible, but the press in the United States itself talks about the 'MIA industry'," he said, referring to groups and individuals who solicit donations to rescue alleged American POWs.

U.S. Senator Bob Smith and five groups representing veterans and families of U.S. servicemen missing from the Vietnam War called on U.S. President Bill Clinton Tuesday to maintain tough economic sanctions against Hanoi.

Thong reiterated Hanoi's stand that it had released all the U.S. prisoners in held—591—after the 1973 Paris peace accords.

He said the Pentagon's own figures, verified by a U.S. Senate committee co-chaired by Smith earlier this year, ruled out the possibility that Vietnam could have been holding some 700 more Americans.

The committee's report said that out of 2,264 Americans unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, 1,095 were known to have been killed in action.

Of the remaining 1,172, most—but not all—were lost under circumstances that make it highly probable they they died at the time the incident occurred.

The remaining 305 cases were designated by the Defense Department as "discrepancy cases" for active investigation. In Vietnam, there were 196 discrepancy cases, of which 135 remain unresolved, the report said.

Commentary Denies U.S. POW's Held

BK1404111493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The American newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES on Monday ran a story saying that a secret document found in Moscow said there were more 700 American prisoners in Vietnam after 1973. Here is our editor's opinion:

A spokesperson for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday rejected the groundless allegation. In 1973 after the Paris agreement, Vietnam returned to the United States all American prisoners of war captured in Vietnam and this has been acknowledged by Washington.

According to the document produced by the U.S. Defense and State Departments and confirmed by an ad-hoc committee of the United States Senate when the war ended in 1973, 1,172 Americans were reported missing and unaccounted for in Indochina, including 798 cases in Vietnam.

Vietnam has so far returned more than 500 remains and cooperated with the U.S. Government in investigating more than 70 reports on live sightings of American POW's and 135 cases with questionable dossiers. Results from the investigations have showed that there is no evidence of any American prisoners being detained or living freely in Vietnam.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher carefully studied the settlement of the MIA issue when taking up office earlier this year. Through his studies, Christopher said Hanoi has cooperated actively in the settlement of the MIA issue.

The allegation was published prior to the coming visit to Vietnam by General John Vessey. Perhaps the fabricator had the intention to prevent the normalization of relations between the two countries. If this is correct, there is little support for the tactic. The majority of American people and businessmen want normalization of relations between the two countries.

The same American paper on Tuesday ran an article saying that even some conservative lawmakers want President Clinton to lift the economic embargo and normalize relations with Hanoi.

Cabinet Meets on Socioeconomic Situation

BK1004091593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] A cabinet meeting was held on 8 and 9 April under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

At the meeting, the minister of the Prime Minister's Office presented a report reviewing the socioeconomic situation in the first quarter and discussing activities which need attention during the second quarter. The minister of construction also presented a government draft decision on house ownership, the policies on selling and pricing houses owned by the state, on administering real estate buying and selling activities, and on administering and using guesthouses and convalescence homes of various ministries and sectors.

The report presented by the minister of the Prime Minister's Office pointed out: The socioeconomic situation during the first quarter of 1993 continued to show changes for the better in agricultural production. The winter-spring rice area was higher than that in the same period last year, while subsidiary food crops developed fairly well. Industrial ouput, including the output of central, local, and nonstate industries increased more than last year. Construction schedules for various key projects were maintained, foreign economic relations expanded, market prices stabilized, and public security and order guaranteed.

These achievements were scored thanks to the affect of new factors in various structural policies.

Right from the beginning of the year, the government has concentrated on directing various key activities in connection with finance, banking, and foreign economic relations.

During the first quarter of 1993, the prime minister and various deputy prime ministers and ministers worked in accordance with the 10 objectives of central tasks set forth at the beginning of the year. They have spent more time working directly with various localities in inspecting and directing work implementation and promptly resolving new difficulties. However, residual difficulties are still numerous, for instance the question of finding markets for agricultural and industrial products, guarding against tax collection shortfalls and tax debts, renovating and broadening banking operations in support of various economic components, and the question of dealing with state enterprises who are unqualified to remain operational.

The report also pointed out a number of activities which need attention during the second quarter in various fields—economic, social, diplomatic, security, national defense, anticorruption, and antismuggling.

Concerning the policies on enforcing the law on housing, after cabinet members had debated and contributed their substantive views, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet concluded by saying: It is the government's policy to promptly solve the question of housing for cadres, workers, state employees, and people. We should carry out the motto of the state and the people working together. We should mobilize as many sources of capital as possible to meet this demand. The administration at various levels should attach great importance to the task of planning and managing construction activities in accordance with plans. Selling state-owned houses to cadres, workers, and state employees for use as residences has profound economic and social significance. The main purpose of this move is to ensure that these houses have owners so they can be refurbished, repaired, or upgraded. Therefore, we need appropriate policies, especially a pricing policy, to ensure that the majority of cadres, workers, and state employees can buy a house. However, the purpose of this move is to ensure stable housing for cadres, workers, and state employees. However, if a house is resold to someone else, the house owners in question shall be subject to a tax. This is to readjust the price differential caused by repeated buying and selling activities, and reduce negativism. Furthermore, the state can also benefit somewhat from selling houses in order to develop their housing fund.

The government has assigned the Ministry of Construction, on the basis of recommendations made by cabinet members, with finalizing relevant documents prior to submitting them to the prime minister for early decision. The government has also assigned the people's committees of various provinces and cities, especially of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, with the task of firmly grasping the state of housing, readjusting exeedingly irrational cases, and ensuring fairness in housing.

As for the question of the real estate business—buying or selling houses and using and administrating guesthouses and convalescence homes of various ministries and sectors, the prime minister has assigned the Ministry of Construction with the task of continuing to study and exchange views with relevant ministries to finalize various draft documents.

CPC's Wang Weichung Visits 5-11 April

BK1304143393 Hanoi VNA in English 1417 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 13—A delegation of cadres of the Chinese Communist Party led by Wang Weichung, Politburo member of the Party Central Committee and head of its Policy Research Commission, [title as received] visited Vietnam from April 5-11 at the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPVCC).

It was received by Hong Ha, secretary of the CPVCC and head of External Relations Commission. The Chinese delegation exchanged views with the economic, organization, ideology and culture commissions of the CPVCC on various questions concerning the reforms and renovation in each country and the relations between the two parties.

The delegation visited a number of agricultural and industrial establishments in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and the southern province of Long An.

French Firm To Help Upgrade Airport Radars

BK1304063693 Hanoi VNA in English 0536 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 13—A contract was signed in Hanoi on Monday between Thomson-CSF of France and the Vietnam General Department of Civil Aviation aimed at upgrading Vietnam's air services and accelerating the country's integration in the international aviation community.

The contract provides for Thomson-CSF's supply of equipment for radar installations at Danang and Qui Nhon Airports as well as radar monitoring system at Tan Son Nhuat Airport in Ho Chi Minh City.

Last year, Thomson-CSF provided Vietnam Airlines with two instrument landing systems (ILS) at Tan Son Nhuat and Danang and a radar installation for the Fly Information Region in Ho Chi Minh City (FIR HCM). Tan Son Nhat was equipped in December last year with Thomson-CSF's Radar Trac-2000.

Vo Van Kiet Meets Francophone Delegation

BK1404060693 Hanoi VNA in English 0543 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 14—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received at the presidential palace in Hanoi on Tuesday afternoon a delegation of the Agency of Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT) of the Francophone community led by its Secretary General Jean Louis Roy currently on a working visit to Vietnam.

Mr. Kiet welcomed the visit and the results of its working sessions with Vietnamese offices concerned. He noted with joy that the relations between Vietnam and ACCT had made inspiring progress since Mr. Roy's visit to Vietnam in March 1991, and that many projects relating to the teaching of French, agriculture and environment had been carried out with practical results in Vietnam.

He reaffirmed Vietnam's attachment to the Francophone community and expressed his hope for a further promotion of the cultural, technical and economic cooperation between Vietnam and ACCT.

Mr. Jean Louis Roy, for his part, informed Mr. Kiet of the results of his delegation's four-day working visit. He said: In the 1992-93 programme ACCT pledged to help carry out 20 projects in Vietnam and so far half of these projects have been executed with a total value of 3 million francs. Besides, each year ACCT helps train about 30 Vietnamese cadres in Bordeaux. He said ACCT highly valued Vietnam's presence in the Francophone community and its contributions to this organisation in the recent past.

He welcomed Vietnam's renovation policy and thanked the Vietnamese Government for permitting ACCT to open its Asia-Pacific office in Hanoi and set up informatics and French-teaching centres in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Earlier, on Tuesday morning, a memorandum of understanding was signed in Hanoi between Prof. Tran Hong Quan, minister of education and training, and Mr. Jean Louis Roy, on the establishment of a French-teaching centre in Ho Chi Minh City for the Asia-Pacific region.

Australia

Minister: U.S.-EC Differences Threaten GATT Success

BK1404090893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0857 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] CANBERRA, April 14 (AFP)—Progress in world trade talks over the past six years would be in vain unless the United States and the European Community resolved their differences, Australian Trade Minister Peter Cook warned Wednesday. He said the work of six years of negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) may "wither on the vine".

Cook urged that the U.S. and EC resolve their bilateral differences over market access so the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations could be completed by the end of the year.

"I urge both the U.S. and the EC to resist calls to unravel what has already been achieved," Cook said in a statement.

"There is a real danger that attempts to substantially revisit these texts would see the important gains made wither on the vine," he said.

France has threatened to block the Blair House accord, made last November, while U.S. negotiators have also demanded more concessions from the Europeans in other areas such as industrial protection.

Cook said Australia welcomed U.S. President Bill Clinton's announcement that he would seek Congress approval for an extension of his "fast track" authority in a bid to conclude the Uruguay Round by the end of the year. The fast-track authority commits Congress to accepting or rejecting as a whole any agreement reached by U.S. negotiators within a time limit, preventing time-wasting amendments. The president's previous fast-track powers expired on March 2.

U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor and EC commissioner for external relations Sir Leon Brittain are due to meet in Washington on April 19. Cook said he hoped the meeting would result in an announcement on the resumption of GATT negotiations.

Keating To Visit New Zealand, Discuss Cooperation

BK1304062093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Australia's Prime Minister Paul Keating is to make his first official visit to New Zealand since becoming leader 16 months ago. Mr. Keating says his three-day visit next month will provide a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the relevance and vitality of the Australian-New Zealand relationship at a time when both countries are undergoing significant economic and social change.

Mr. Keating says it is fitting New Zealand should be the destination of his first overseas trip since last month's general election as the trans-Tasman relationship is among Australia's most important. Talks with Prime Minister Jim Bolger and New Zealand Government ministers are expected to include discussions on further development of economic relations, trans-Tasman aviation, defense relations, and Australia-New Zealand cooperation in the Southwest Pacific.

Solomon Islands

PNG Denial of Attempted Annexation Sparks Surprise

BK1404063693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The Solomon Islands says it's surprised the Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government has denied its forces attempted to annex (Oima) Island last week. Security forces chief, Frederick (Soarki), says it is obvious the PNG military authorities at the border are misleading the Port Moresby government on their activities. He says the incident cannot be denied. The Solomon Islands police saw the PNG flag raised on the island and the transcript of the order by the commander of PNG Patrol Boat-3 declaring (Oima) Island PNG property.

In a statement yesterday, PNG's acting minister for foreign affairs, John Nilkare, claimed PNG troops did not land on the island. He said neither the PNG Government nor its security forces had any plans to invade, annex, or claim any part of Solomon Islands territory.

PNG Incursion Top Item for Australian Talks

BK1404085093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Solomon Islands says the issue of border incursions by Papua New Guinea [PNG] security forces will be top of the agenda during defense cooperation talks with Australia later this month. The annual talks are scheduled to take place in Honiara on 28 April and an adviser to Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni, Hugo Paia, says the request for Australian help in securing the border will be made.

Earlier this week, Mr. Mamaloni said Solomons needed small boats to police the border and would like Australian personnel to join an international border force, an idea already rejected by Canberra. Honiara is also reported to have approved a $500,000 budget to help boost the effectiveness of its border force.